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First Round of Vienna Talks Concludes 23 Mar

Positions, Proposals Exchanged

LD2603141689 Moscow World Service in English 1110 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] Talks on reducing the military danger began a fortnight [2 weeks] ago in Vienna. The talks were conducted by two expert groups, one discussing the question of confidence-building measures and security in Europe, the other, including representatives of the 23 NATO and Warsaw Treaty countries, is working on the problem of reducing the armed forces and conventional arms from the Atlantic to the Urals. Last Thursday the talks were interrupted for the Easter holiday. Here's a report from the Austrian capital on the first round:

Political observers described the first round as specific and businesslike and rich in content. At the sessions the 23 participants clearly stated their positions and displayed readiness to come to an understanding. The sides gave up fruitless wrangling over figures, which plagued many disarmament meetings in the past. They submitted their concrete proposals and exchanged opinions in a businesslike manner.

Experts noted that the general tone of the talks on conventional arms in Europe had been set by a constructive position of the Warsaw Treaty countries, which put forward a long-term program in three stages for reducing the armed forces and conventional arms to levels sufficient for defense. The NATO position, regrettably, lacks such concrete prospects. We aren't closing our eyes to the existing differences, the head of the Soviet delegation Oleg Grinevskiy said in a talk with journalists. It's good that the talks have started in a spirit of cooperation and search for solutions instead of confrontation.

The Vienna talks will resume on 5 May.

Karpov Comments

LD2503153789 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1145 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Karpov by commentator Vladimir Pasko on the first round of Vienna talks on conventional forces and confidence-building measures in Europe; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Pasko] Viktor Pavlovich, the first round of talks on conventional forces in Europe and confidence-building and security measures has ended in Vienna. How do you see its results and the positions of the sides, and how realistic is success at the talks?

[Karpov] I think that it is too early to draw definitive conclusions. The round was a very brief one. It essentially consisted in the parties to the talks setting out the basic elements of their positions. In that sense it can be said that the round was useful in that it enabled the positions of the parties to the talks to be compared. Now an analysis has to be made of how far and where the positions tally and what issues still require additional work, so that the next round can be begun on a businesslike and concrete note and with the discussion of concrete proposals.

There are differences of approach. These differences consist of the fact that at the talks on the reduction of armed forces in Europe the NATO countries adhere to a position which reduces the discussions to a more narrow range of problems—specifically, the reduction of three types of armaments: tanks, artillery, and armored personnel carriers. Our position is wider. We believe that, first, the numerical strength of armed forces, as well as tactical strike aircraft and helicopters, should be subject to reductions. In this sense our position proceeds from the necessity to embrace a wider range of armaments which represent the greatest danger from the point of view of launching a sudden attack and conducting offensive operations.

I repeat, however, so far the positions have only been set out. It is necessary to examine where potential may exist and how the negotiating process can develop further.

On confidence-building measures, so far we also have only the general outlines of the positions. Our position has been set out—jointly with the Warsaw Pact countries—to a much wider extent. We propose that confidence-building measures include naval activity and the operations of air forces, something which cannot as yet be glimpsed in the West's position.

[Pasko] Ambassador Grinevskiy, the head of our delegation in Vienna, noted as positive the fact that NATO representatives at the talks had adopted a course of businesslike cooperation and search for solutions. Does this signify that it is possible the NATO countries will agree to include strike aircraft and combat helicopters in the talks and that the talks will not just be about armaments, but also armed forces? Is there any movement regarding the inclusion of naval armaments and aircraft in the confidence-building measures?

[Karpov] As far as the numerical strength of armed forces—its reduction—is concerned, the NATO countries sense the awkwardness of their position, and their argumentation has so far been, so to speak, to blunt the cutting edge of our criticism on this. I think the NATO countries will, evidently, have to analyze their position once again and weigh where their refusal to reduce the numerical strength of armed forces is leading. It is difficult to imagine that given a reduction, a significant reduction, of tanks, artillery, aircraft, armored personnel carriers, and so on, one can leave untouched the numerical strength of armed forces and their structure. After all, the significance of such reductions for imparting a defensive bias to the armed forces of both NATO and the Warsaw Pact consists precisely in altering the structure and giving it a different content. If the numerical strength of armed forces is not touched, the structure does not change. Thus, this question will evidently still have to be subjected to comprehensive analysis by the NATO countries too. And I hope that positive changes are possible here.

As far as widening the scope of the armaments is concerned, we do have certain hints of sorts from the NATO countries—of an unofficial nature—that they do not rule out a widening of the range of armaments, above all by including aircraft, but they are saying that perhaps, to save time and to allot the tasks for the talks in a more rational way, the focus should currently be on a narrower range.

However, we think that it is nonetheless difficult to conduct a serious conversation from such a position. Aviation is one of the main means of organizing an offensive, a sudden strike. Therefore, we consider it simply impossible to exclude it from the primary weapons which would be subject to reduction.

As for confidence-building measures, well, as I have already said, the position of NATO has for now remained the same as it was previously. But I think that we have here, all the same, also a possibility for trying—if one is not to consider right now naval forces and aircraft, as we are proposing—to at least seek approaches to this, approaches to this for the future so as to gradually also involve, proceedings from perhaps the most simple decisions to more difficult ones, both air forces and naval forces in the system of confidence-building measures.

Another question which we think offers prospects is limiting the activeness of the armed forces of both alliances in Europe, that is a limitation on the scale of exercises, reduction in the quantity of such exercises in the course of a year, and so on. Such measures would, we think, provide a serious influence for stabilizing the situation in Europe.

[Pasko] The commencement of the Vienna talks has, of course, brought to life the negotiations process on disarmament. But one cannot fail to see that the Soviet-U.S. talks on strategic offensive armaments are, in effect, stagnating. There is no information on the course of the talks on chemical weapons. Does this mean that things are so bad there that there is nothing to say, or, on the contrary, that this is a lull before the triumphal announcement about the end of the drafting of the long-awaited convention?

[Karpov] Insofar as the question of strategic offensive armaments is concerned, talks here are simply not yet being conducted. The point is that the administration of President Bush has requested an adjournment. It is currently busy thoroughly analyzing all positions connected with the military and strategic plans of the United States, that is, constructon of the armed forces and development of armaments programs. All this is now being examined in special commissions inside and outside the Pentagon. Such analysis will be completed apparently by the end of April and no sooner.

Therefore, the U.S. Administration is also currently not inclined to enter once more with us into negotiations on issues which are directly connected with the determination of their strategic or military-strategic policy, which should also be reflected, naturally, in their positions at the talks. And, in this sense, we relate with understanding the fact that the U.S. Administration is, for the time being, not ready to resume the talks. I think that when the analysis is finished and Secretary of State Baker comes to Moscow in the first half of May, the question of resuming negotiations on strategic offensive weapons will be resolved in a positive way.

Then we will see how the U.S. positions will develop. In any case, the groundwork which was laid during the last years of President Reagan's term in the White House may serve as a very good point of departure for further negotiations and for deciding the question of 50-percent reductions in strategic offensive armaments.

Yes, indeed, no major sensations are as yet being observed on chemical weapons. But this once more is connected with the fact that the U.S. position on this issue has also not yet been defined. And the U.S. representative at the disarmament conference is in general adopting a fairly passive position. Well, and you know that many countries that are participating in the conference are watching, all the same, how the dialogue is developing between the USSR and the United States—the two major powers that possess chemical weapons. And that dialogue is still stagnating to a certain extent.

[Pasko] The negotiating process on disarmament has become, undoubtedly, broader with the inclusion of conventional armaments. But it is impossible, just as previously, to call the process all-embracing. For instance, tactical nuclear means and naval armaments remain outside the process. This was mentioned, in particular, by Comrade Shevardnadze at the meeting of foreign ministers in Vienna. That is to say, we are (?not) raising the question before the West. But is there any kind of positive response?

[Karpov] There is no unity in the West's position on these issues. We know for instance—and it is no secret—that West Germany is in favor of starting talks on tactical nuclear weapons. This was stated by Genscher when he spoke not so long ago in Geneva at the disarmament conference. At the same time, the United States is against such talks. Thus, the NATO position has not yet been defined conclusively here, and evidently additional debates are going to be held within the NATO framework to determine how to proceed. For our part we intend to promote such debates, proposing an immediate start on talks on tactical nuclear weapons in Geneva or another place convenient for the NATO countries. Thus it is up to NATO to act here. I repeat, their position has not been conclusively defined.

As for the question of naval armaments, this question is indeed a very big and important one in that as conventional armaments are reduced on the continent of Europe, the role of naval forces in the overall balance between NATO and the Warsaw Pact will of course increase. That is clear, and I think that one does not have to be a big expert on military affairs to see that. From this point of view, the future maintenance of European and international security as a whole will depend in large measure on whether naval armaments are going to be limited in the future and on what scale. Thus, it will scarecely be possible to evade discussion of this topic. And again, within the NATO context, there is no common denominator on this point either. Not so long ago, as we know, Norwegian officials spoke out in favor of discussing the problem of naval armaments, including confidence-building measures with regard to naval forces and, in priciple, in favor of consideration being given to the possibility of reducing these forces to establish a more stable situation on the seas as well. We believe that at the end of the day it will be necessary to commence such talks to supplement the reductions of land forces with a reduction of naval armaments. But perhaps this is not something for today, or tomorrow, but perhaps the day after tomorrow, figuratively speaking.

[Pasko] Viktor Pavlovich, permit me to thank you for your interestinyg replies and to wish you, and, through you, all the diplomats involved in disarmament talks, success in this difficult work that is so important for all of us. Thank you very much.

[Karpov] Thank you.

NATO Reaches Agreement on Nuclear Modernization

LD2403181789 Moscow TASS in English 1803 GMT 24 Mar 89

[Text] Brussels March 24 TASS—The NATO countries have reached a compromise on the question of modernisation of their nuclear tactical weapons stationed in Europe, a FRANCE PRESSE correspondent in the Belgian capital reported, referring to "a reliable source".

According to the correspondent, at a meeting of the high level group, the NATO working body, this week, its members, representatives of the NATO defense ministries, agreed to start developing new missiles to replace short-range Lance missiles now operational with NATO, but to postpone their deployment in Europe for an indefinite period of time.

The decision needs to be approved by the defense ministers at the Nuclear Planning Group's meeting to be held in Brussels on April 19-20 and then endorsed by the NATO heads of state and government at a summit meeting planned to be held late in May.

Chervov Says Nuclear Modernization 'A Step Back'

LD2503135189 Moscow World Service in English 1210 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] Next a problem that concerns everyone who is optimistic about the current improvements in the political climate, both in Europe and worldwide. It's also a problem that may hamper the construction of a common European home. To be more specific, it's the plan to modernize NATO's nuclear arsenals, which virtually marks an attempt by the North Atlantic alliance to skirt the Soviet-American treaty scrapping intermediate- and shorter-range missiles. At the request of Radio Moscow, the department chief of the Soviet General Staff, Colonel General Nikolay Chervov, has supplied this comment:

[Chervov in Russian fading into English report] The situation is indeed paradoxical, especially if one recalls the recently announced intention of the Warsaw Treaty countries to unilaterally reduce their armed forces. Here is a table showing the Soviet Union and its Warsaw Treaty allies: They are planning in Europe to slash the strength of their armies by nearly 300,000 servicemen, precisely by 296,300 men; nearly 12,000 tanks; and large amounts of other weaponry and military hardware. Almost all of the Warsaw Treaty countries will make cuts in their military budgets by an average of 15 percent.

In the meantime, the West has been talking of the need to modernize its short-range nuclear forces and compensate for the missiles scrapped under the INF Treaty. What do all those plans imply? Well in the first place, modernization of nuclear artillery, so as to replace ordinary nuclear bombs with missiles launched from combat planes. Also, there is the idea to replace the currently operated Lance missiles with a range of 110 km with more powerful and effective ones that will be able to hit targets at a distance of 450 km. Missiles of that class are now being developed in the United States. In formal terms those replacements will be within the framework of the INF Treaty, but in practice they may change the situation a great deal.

General Nikolay Chervov then observed that the unilateral disarmament measures to be effected by the Warsaw Treaty nations would mark a major step toward greater trust. Of importance, the planned move will not be connected with any negotiations, nor will any conditions be advanced before NATO. But we can always expect NATO to effect reciprocal cuts in at least those systems that create a military imbalance in favor of the West. Cuts of this kind could concern specifically assault aircraft or tactical nuclear weapons. If the North Atlantic bloc does decide to modernize its short-range nuclear forces—and this issue is expected to be considered at a NATO Council session next May—new and serious barriers may arise in the way of the Vienna talks on confidence-building measures and reductions in European armed forces and armaments. That will clearly be a step back, falling out of the context of present day realities.

President Bush Favors East-West Arms Parity

LD2503140189 Moscow TASS in English 1245 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] Washington March 25 TASS—"We've got broad East-West relations in terms of arms control," U.S. President George Bush said in an interview published by the WASHINGTON TIMES Friday.

He said the United States is "committed to significant conventional force adjustment". However, he added, "we don't want to just have equal withdrawal in terms of numbers, we want to have what's left be equal".

On strategic arms reduction, the President said that there are some proposals on it.

He also said that he still keeps his "keen interest in the elimination and certainly reduction of chemical weapons around the world, hard as it is to verify".

On U.S.-Soviet relations Bush said the administration is going to have a "thorough review" of them. "When that review is completed, we'll be in a much better position" for a summit meeting.

Vice President Quayle Criticized for SDI Support

LD2403175989 Moscow TASS in English 1750 GMT 24 Mar 89

[Text] Moscow March 24 TASS—By TASS observer on military issues Vladimir Bogachev:

U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle has attacked Americans "with cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat" and who allegedly for this reason oppose the realisation of the "Star Wars" programme.

It should be pointed out in this connection that Quayle borrowed the phrase about "victories and defeats" from Theodore Roosevelt who was U.S. President from 1901 to 1909, long before the beginning of the nuclear age. Judging by Quayle's speech at the Navy League conference in Washington, he continues to believe in a possibility of U.S. victory in a war and regards the militarisation of outer space as the most effective way of winning it.

Quayle opposes the maintenance of strategic stability through arms control talks, as befits a supporter of power practices in world politics. He tried to convince members of the Navy League that the SDI had become necessary because the attempts to achieve some progress at the negotiating table had failed. "Despite some encouraging changes within the Soviet Union, I know of nothing that has occurred since 1983 that should change our thinking about strategic defence," he said.

Quayle surprised even a rather conservative audience when he said that "we seldom hear the claims anymore that we must reject strategic defences because they are technically impossible." The Vice President did not repeat trite statements about the unbreakable anti-missile shield and about nuclear weapons becoming impotent and obsolete thanks to the SDI. He preferred a more evasive, but equally groundless statement that the SDI would strengthen deterrence.

Quayle praised the advantages of a new version of the SDI, the so-called "brilliant pebbles", and spoke about a possibility of reducing expenditures on the "Star Wars" programme. To make his words sound more convincing, he reduced by half the cost of the "interceptor pebble" as against the one mentioned by Edward Teller.

The most interesting part of Quayle's speech is the one in which he said that "the Bush administration remains committed to the development and deployment of a viable strategic defence system" and that this stand sould not be changed after an "honest review of all aspects of our national security policies."

One should like to hope that Quayle's statements do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the administration.

U.S. 'Star Wars' Satellite Launched 24 Mar

LD2503075989 Moscow TASS in English 0753 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] New York March 25 TASS—A Delta booster rocket was launched from Cape Canaveral on Friday. The rocket deployed a satellite which is designed to accomplish missions under the 'Star Wars' programme. The 140-million dollar satellite, dubbed Delta Star, weighs three tons. It is fitted out with a laser radar, seven videocameras and other special equipment. Its purpose is to detect and destroy incoming missiles several minutes after their launch.

According to a spokesman for the Department of the Air Force, the launch was carried out within the framework of research under the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) programme designed to create a space-based anti-missile defence system.

Secretary Cheney's Press Conference Reported

PM2703100189 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Mar 89 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Pentagon's Plans"]

[Text] Washington, 25 Mar—On Friday the new U.S. defense secretary, Richard Cheney, gave his first press conference since assuming office.

Answering journalists' questions, R. Cheney reported that the U.S. Administration is continuing to discuss the question of priorities in building U.S. strategic forces, but the decision about which complexes of strategic missiles—the MX or the Midgetmen—will be given the go-ahead has not yet been taken. He also noted that he "has been and remains" a supporter of the development and deployment of antisatellite weapons and will oppose "any restrictions on testing and deploying" these armaments.

Touching on the problem of Soviet-U.S. relations, R. Cheney said that the United States must "preserve a position of strength" at the talks on conventional armed forces in Europe "and possibly on the question of strategic arms reduction."

Deputy Defense Minister Discusses Plant Conversions

AU2403120089 East Berlin NEUE ZEIT in German 22 Mar 89 p 5

[Interview with USSR Deputy Defense Minister Y.S. Belousov by NOVOSTI: "From Military Technology to Consumer Goods"; date, place not given]

[Text] [Question] A plan to convert important defense industry capacities to the production of goods for the civilian economy is presently being developed in the Soviet Union. What are its most important aspects?

[Belousov] The main part of the plan involves complex measures to convert defense industry capacities and to ensure the production of new goods for the national economy.

[Question] Are these questions to be solved in the future?

[Belousov] By no means. Except for the years of war, our armament plants in the machine and instrument building sector have always produced civilian goods in addition to military products, but not on such a large scale as now. Because the international climate has improved, 345 armament plants are already producing equipment for the consumer goods and foodstuffs industries. Their share in the total production of such goods amounts to more than one-fifth this year.

This is the present situation. By 1995 the defense industry is to increase the production of equipment for the consumer goods industry by 2.3 times its present volume. This is almost 1.5 times as much as our whole country has produced in this sector. In the same period, the series production of approximately 1,400 types of new technology will be started, and thus the whole production range of machine tools and machines for the consumer goods industry will be innovated.

In my opinion, the increase in the production and technical standard of agro-industrial equipment is no less important. This program provides for the incorporation of approximately 4,000 types of new technology into production, 3,000 of them in defense industry enterprises. By 1990 the production of equipment and spare parts will be increased 1.8 times, and by 1995 3.5 times. Here the defense industry will account for almost half of the supplies in the mentioned sectors. In order to implement this program, 2,000 leading defense industry research institutes and construction offices will be involved in the project.

[Question] To what extent do armament plants directly participate in consumer goods production?

[Belousov] At present, they produce approximately 2,000 types of consumer goods. In 1988 alone they supplied almost 10 million television sets, 95 percent of all refrigerators, 62 percent of the washing machines, 69 percent of the vacuum cleaners, and so on.

In the years 1989-1995 it is planned that the defense industries will produce approximately 140 types of complicated household technology. This includes stereo television sets, general kitchen appliances, refrigerators, deep-freeze cabinets, electronically controlled vacuum cleaners, linen dryers, ironing machines, and new products such as digital record players with laser devices, videorecorders, video cameras, pocket watches with speech synthesizers, home computers, and many other things.

[Question] Undoubtedly, the population will benefit from all this. But what about the defense industry? What is more advantageous: tanks or television sets?

[Belousov] If the generally high quality of the products and the great demand is taken into consideration, there will probably be no disadvantages for the collectives of the converted enterprises, departments, and sectors. For example, the government has permitted them to keep all the previous year's profits from production in excess of the plan in the years 1989 and 1990.

However, not only is the arms production being converted, but the military technology that has been taken out of production can also be used in the national economy.

[Question] Will specialists and workers not lose their jobs because of conversion?

[Belousov] This could only apply to the jobs of a small group of narrowly specialized experts— a problem that can definitely be solved in our planned economy, for we do not intend to close down plants by converting them, but to change their profile. Not only are we introducing new technology here, but we are also continuing to use the existing one.

Of course, conversion also creates serious problems; for example, production areas have to be reorganized and technological processes and equipment have to be changed. We also have to thoroughly consider and weigh the economic aspects of the affected enterprises. Practice will provide a convincing answer to all these questions.

[Question] U.S. scientists have advocated cooperation and an exchange of opinions with the Soviet Union in this field. What do you think of this?

[Belousov] It is no secret that in the United States any plan to reduce armament meets with the determined resistance of the powerful military-industrial complex, which is worried about its billions in profits. However, notwithstanding the major differences in principle in the attitude toward this problem, we are ready to exchanges ideas and experiences with the United States. Our country wants all countries, above all the military superpowers, to present their respective national plans to the United Nations. We are also in favor of forming a group of scientists to analyze the problems of conversion in general and for individual regions and countries. Conversion is the road to real disarmament. However, this concerns all states and peoples.

Missile Transporters Converted to Civilian Use

LD2703115789 Moscow TASS in English 1145 GMT 27 Mar 89

[Text] Moscow March 27 TASS—High-powered wheeled truck tractors which were previously used to transport medium-range missiles, which are now being eliminated under the Soviet-U.S. INF Treaty, are being converted to civilian uses in the Soviet Union.

The newspaper GUDOK, in a dispatch from Arkhangelsk, in the north of the Russian Federation, reported on Monday that six such vehicles are now being used for the transportation of goods by geological parties that prospect for oil and gas in Soviet polar region.

Geologists highly evaluated the vehicles. The former missile transporters have a high carrying capacity and their engines operate on cheap diesel fuel. Four driving axles ensure a high cross-country capacity in arduous road conditions.

'Roundtable' on Vienna Talks, Afghanistan, Mideast

LD2603174689 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1130 GMT 26 Mar 89

["International Observers Roundtable" program presented by All-Union foreign political commentator Boris Andrianou; with Dmitriy Antonovich Volskiy, editorial board member of ZA RUBEZHOM; and Vadim Borisovich Kassis, editor in chief of GOLOS RODINY and OTCHIZNA]

[Text] [Andrianov] Hello, comrades. Here to take part in our roundtable meeting today are Dmitriy Antonovich Volskiy, editorial board member of the weekly ZA RUBEZHOM, and Vadim Borisovich Kassis, who is the editor in chief of the newspaper GOLOS RODINY and the magazine OTCHIZNA.

This week saw the end of the first round of the talks in Vienna, which, as you know, are divided into two independent areas. The first were devoted to strengthening measures of trust and security in Europe. Taking part in them were delegations of the 35 countries that signed the Helsinki Final Act. At the second series of talks, the 16 NATO states and the 7 member countries of the Warsaw Pact held discussions on conventional armed forces in Europe, that is, from the Atlantic to the Urals.

The current stage of the Vienna talks has only been under way for 6 weeks, though it's being predicted that in terms of time it will be a very long haul for the participants. Why, then, did the first round end 3 days ago, on 23 March?

[Volskiy] That's a question that is probably of interest to our radio listeners. Well, there was a purely formal reason for taking a time out, as it were, in the talks marathon: the beginning of the traditional Easter holiday in the Western countries. But the real reason goes much deeper. The 16 states comprising the North Atlantic alliance who are holding the talks with the member countries of the Warsaw Pact do not as yet have a fully agreed mandate. It has still to be confirmed at a session of the NATO Council, which won't take place until May.

[Kassis] Nevertheless, the sides had stated their fundamental positions before the talks began. And by comparing them, one was able to draw certain conclusions, which inspired a certain optimism. A substantial area of agreement could be seen on basic issues, and this could serve as quite a good starting point for discussions directed towards the search for solutions.

[Andrianov] And at the talks themselves, during the sessions, the delegations of the participating countries made it clear where they stood and showed, I'd say, a serious desire to understand each other's positions. It's worth pointing this out because the participants in the talks refrained from the fruitless controversy and disputes over figures which had corroded the mechanism of many previous disarmament forums. Instead, they submitted documents containing specific proposals and carried out a businesslike exchange of views on the problems of reducing military armories, strengthening security, and developing measures of trust. It was this, no doubt, that gave observers in the Austrian capital reason to assess the first round of the talks as down-to-earth, concrete, and substantial in content.

[Kassis] I'd like to note in this connection the opinion of the military experts, including those in the West. They consider that it was the constructive position of the Warsaw Pact, and its willingness to move forward, that set the general tone in Vienna. After all, it was the Warsaw Pact that put forward the long-term, three-stage program of reduction of armed forces and conventional armaments to a level adequate only for defense. No such concrete prospect can be observed in the position of the NATO countries. Their proposals merely envisage cutting three categories of armaments: tanks, artillery, and armored vehicles. And it still remains unclear what specific armaments are to be reduced in the first instance.

Another major defect of the NATO proposals is that they say nothing about reducing the numerical strength of troops, though everyone knows that personnel are the main offensive component of armed forces.

[Volskiy] Yes, it's no use pretending that NATO's list is in any way sufficient when it comes to removing from European soil the danger of sudden attack and the mounting of large-scale military operations. That is why the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries propose that along with tanks, artillery, combat vehicles, and infantry, we should also reduce air forces: strike combat aircraft and battlefield helicopters. That approach is well-founded and logical, since the group of air forces that NATO now has represents, by virtue of its strike capability, the most powerful weapon; it is the most sophisticated type of offensive armament.

[Andrianov] I would supplement that thought with a further consideration. One simply cannot lose sight of NATO's existing military doctrine and strategy. In particular, the concept which the North Atlantic alliance has accepted, of deep strikes at support echelons, directly envisages military operations outside the territory of the NATO countries. I think there is also serious concern about the operational plans of NATO's tactical air forces for winning superiority in the air, predominantly by massed strikes at enemy airfields and antiaircraft defenses in the first hours of a war.

[Kassis] And how can we leave out of account the naval forces of the NATO countries? Take the United States for instance. They have put their stake on greatly increasing the size of their fleet of fighting ships. And the Warsaw Pact countries are entitled to see in this an intention, not so much to control the sea routes by escorting convoys, as to move aircraft-carrier units up to the shores of the Soviet Union to deliver strikes at the territory of our country and our allies. It's certainly not for nothing that deployed on those ships there are hundreds of strike aircraft and a large number of cruise missiles capable of reaching targets deep in Soviet territory. So NATO's superiority in strike air forces and naval forces must become a subject of discussion at the talks in Vienna, the more so since the North Atlantic alliance openly confirms its willingness to be first to use tactical nuclear weapons.

[Volskiy] Talks have been going on in Vienna not only on conventional armed forces in Europe, but also on measures to strengthen trust and security. At these latter talks, too, both points of contact and differences of approach have emerged. As far as the points of contact are concerned, the countries of NATO and the Warsaw Pact, the neutral and nonaligned states, favor developing the Stockholm accords and widening the glasnost and predictability of military activities. What the differences of approach come down to, essentially, is that NATO is proposing that we should limit ourselves, practically, to an insignificant broadening of the trust-building measures agreed on in Stockholm—in other words, that we should aim at nothing more than a cosmetic repair job on the Stockholm accords. Whereas the concept of the socialist states envisages the need to develop a new generation of measures of trust on land, on sea, and in the air.

[Andrianov] We must not, of course, close our eyes to the disagreements that exist. But at the same time we ought not to overlook the positive element: The talks have taken the path, not of confrontation but of businesslike cooperation and the quest for solutions. The Soviet Union wants the talks to be conducted with vigor and dynamism. We want to look for an honest accord, based on a balance of interests, that will not be to the detriment of any of the parties to the talks or of any of the states of Europe.

[Volskiy] Well, those are precisely the positions from which we advocate solving not only the problems of Europe, but also other problems, of other parts of the world—though of course those solutions are not everywhere easy to achieve. That policy encounters opposition in various quarters, and possibly we see this especially clearly, if we're talking about recent times, in the example of the acute and burning problems of Afghanistan.

[Kassis] The U.S. Embassy building in Kabul is situated close to the local radio and television committee, practically in the very heart of the Afghan capital. Over the years, a good deal of provocative information—or simply impudent disinformation—has issued from behind the embassy walls. The competent bodies in Kabul have exposed the lies of black propaganda and, through the Republic's mass news media, disseminated the truth about the real state of affairs in the country. And now come new tidings: It seems Washington is going to break off diplomatic relations with Afghanistan. The purpose of this is obviously to give themselves a still freer hand in providing aid to the mujahidin.

[Andrianov] Washington, incidentally, is still not making any secret of reports of new military deliveries to the irreconcilable opposition. And this is being done in the teeth of elementary common sense. You might think it was time they stopped pouring oil on the flames, and began clearing away the accumulated rubble of antagonistic relations. But no! The military dispatches have the pages of the press literally in thrall. The Republic's Foreign Ministry continues to send notes to the UN observers' mission containing the facts of new violations of the Geneva agreements by Islamabad.

[Volskiy] In these documents it is stressed in particular that Pakistan is continuing to commit acts of armed aggression against the Republic of Afghanistan by dispatching sub-units of its regular troops and malishas—as the armed tribal militias are called—who together with the rebels are participating in attacks on the Afghan administrative centers. Incidentally, two agents of the Pakistani special services who had been captured by the security organs of the Republic also spoke about this at a press conference in Kabul.

[Kassis] In this complex situation one can't help asking the question: Were the Geneva agreements never signed? Was it not a peaceful settlement of the problem that was discussed, which in essence means the use of political and not military means to resolve the conflict? Was the withdrawal of the limited Soviet contingent of troops not a weighty contribution to the business of real, military detente? There was all this and more. After all, the Kabul government announced its readiness to cooperate with the opposition forces in striving to achieve the main thing—national reconciliation.

[Andrianov] I think, Vadim Borisovich, that in these circumstances there is a necessity to compare objectively the position of Kabul with the position of the United States and Pakistan. You recalled the intention of Washington to break diplomatic relations with Afghanistan. Indeed, according to the opinion of THE NEW YORK TIMES newspaper, things have already gone further in the U.S. capital. There they want to accredit their ambassador in the camp of the irreconcilable opposition and it is the United States, a guarantor of the accords reached in Geneva with the Kabul government, that is venturing to undertake these actions. Where is the logic in that? Where is common sense?

[Volskiy] Yes, logic is entirely absent. Judge for yourselves. Having recently formed, with the help of the Pakistani special services, a so-called government which is supposed to replace the Kabul regime, the Alliance of Seven is evidently intending to provide a refuge for the cabinet which it has heartily cobbled together on Afghan soil, and to strive for its international recognition with all its strength and with the support of the United States. As a staging post, the rebels have selected Jalalabad.

[Kassis] The battle for Jalalabad may perhaps be considered the most major since the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. The battle was a real bloodbath, a fratricidal bloodbath. More than 2,000 rebels were left lying on the Jalalabad plain in a week of military operations. But the blinders of fanaticism nevertheless remain over the eyes of the so-called combatants for the purity of Islam. They are continuing to play on the religious feelings of believers. They remain deaf to the appeals from Kabul to sit down at the negotiating table.

[Andrianov] Sit down at the negotiating table, without any interference from outside, in order to elect a transitional government. In a certain period it could prepare the country for free elections. This is the practicable path to moving away from the bloodshed and violence. This is the only way to a peaceful sovereign Afghanistan.

[Volskiy] This is on what one would like to dwell. Letters from readers and listeners, asking about the justification for Soviet economic help to Afghanistan, come to the editorial departments of newspapers and here to the radio. We realize that far from everything in our country has been resolved so far as food supplies are concerned, and that we have great problems in this area which were talked about at the last plenum of the party Central Committee. Nevertheless, this is what we internationalists need to remember. As early as 1921, the Government of Afghanistan handed over as a gift 200,000 poods of wheat to the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] for those who were starving in the area of the Volga. Yet life was not free and easy for the Afghans either at that time. Good neighbors must always come to each other's assistance.

[Kassis] If we are talking about assistance, we are not the only ones assistng Afghanistan. Through the offices of the United Nations Organization, a plan has been drawn up for the economic renewal of the country. In the framework of this very document, $900 million has already been collected for assistance to Afghanistan. Our country, the FRG, and France took part in this noble action. As far as the United States is concerned, they are pretending that this does not concern them. For them something else is more important: to spend $300 million annually on weapons deliveries to the Afghan opposition forces.

[Volskiy] On the question of the situation prevailing around Afghanistan, quite a number of other questions arise. In particular, both in the West and in our country, it happens more and more often that one hears this judgment on the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan: Wasn't this action a serious mistake? Here is what Comrade Shevardnadze, minister of foreign affairs, thinks about the matter. Answering a TASS correspondent's questions recently, he said: We, together with the Afghan leadership, have come to the conclusion that there is no military solution to Afghanistan's problems. Therein is contained a very simple answer to the question, but it is necessary that the other side also comes to this single, correct conclusion.

[Kassis] The TASS correspondent asked the Soviet foreign minister: What political steps, in the opinion of Comrade Shevardnadze, would facilitate the lessening of tensions in Afghan affairs? The minister recalled that a realistic program for the achievement of a comprehensive Afghan settlement was set forth by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev in his speech at the United Nations General Assembly last December. All the Soviet proposals, including the idea of an international conference on Afghanistan, remain on the agenda.

[Andrianov] The Soviet foreign minister, answering the TASS correspondent's questions, spoke in favor of calling a UN Security Council meeting to consider the question of the infringement by Pakistan of the Geneva accords. Well, so the UN verification mechanism can carry out its functions, it is necessary to create permanent UN posts on the Afghan-Pakistani border, especially in Tour Kham, where the road to Jalalabad begins.

[Volskiy] Continuing our conversation about Pakistani interference in Afghan affairs, I would like to note this circumstance, which is leading to a dangerous extension of the conflict, which is fraught with the possibility of spreading to wider areas. This is why, in particular—yes, until now the conflict in Afghanistan was mainly a sociopolitical one. Putting it over-simply, on the one side there were the progressive forces, headed by the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, and on the other side the supporters—albeit a motley crew—of the former conservative order. This, I repeat, is a simplified version, but nevertheless, in general, this was the nature of the war. It was somehow controlled, somehow contained.

Now the picture is changing. The Pakistani militarists are laying the main stress on the religious and ethnic factor, on Muslim fundamentalism, fanaticism, on dissension between tribes and ethnic groups. After all, there are quite a few of them, not only in Afghanistan but, one should recall, also in the neighboring countries, first and foremost in Pakistan itself. And all this is mixed up with emotions and stirs up passions, which it is difficult to bring into some kind of framework. It is not by chance that today we see more and more acute outbursts of intercommunal strife in Pakistan. It is not by chance that India is worried by the danger of conflict spreading to the regions that are adjacent to it.

[Andrianov] In this connection, I will read you something said in the Delhi newspaper THE STATESMAN: Can India remain indifferent to such events taking place at such close proximity to its northwestern borders? This, of course, is a purely rhetorical question.

[Kassis] Of course it cannot remain indifferent, all the more so, if you take into account the report, which appeared in the Indian press as early as last winter, about plans to create, on the basis of the war in Afghanistan, almost a new military and political alliance. Besides Afghanistan, they would like to draw into it Turkey and Iran and, if they are successful in getting the upper hand in the war in Afghanistan, then that country too. Such projects are founded on the Islamic community. One should recall that this is not something new, this is not the first time. Many of our radio listeners, especially the young ones, perhaps do not remember, but from the 1950's to the 1970's a military bloc was already functioning in this region, originally called the Baghdad Pact, and after the Iraqi withdrawal, the Central Treaty Organization Pact. Its members were Turkey, Pakistan, Iran, but, let us note too, Britain and, to all intents and purposes, the United States, which controlled this alliance.

It subsequently fell apart, having failed to withstand the test of time and the processes taking place in the world. But now, if press reports are anything to go by, attempts are being made by some to revive something similar. These reports were confirmed last week by the well-informed weekly FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW, which is published by the British in Hong Kong. It stresses the Pakistani generals' hand in the efforts to create a new alliance. For the moment, of course, it's merely a question of plans, but this is obviously a hindrance to the positive process both in and even outside the region; and not only to ending the war in Afghanistan, but also, for instance, to a stable settlement between Iran and Iraq, and to unclogging regional conflicts in general. Attempts at fanning the flames of strife and at setting one group of developing countries against another merely destabilizes things in various regions of the Third World, and this is very dangerous.

[Volskiy] I would say that there are other causes of that danger as well: for example, economic difficulties, famine, neocolonial exploitation, and the developing countries' unequal status in the international economic establishment.

[Kassis] Yes, you're right. There are also causes of a psychological order, so to speak—by this I mean an inclination by certain quarters to look to the past rather than the future. In Lebanon, for instance, the leaders of various religious communities at war with one another are clearly giving no thought to the future, deriving their ideals, so to speak from their past, from bygone ages. Yet, that country will only have a future, of course, if there is harmony between them, if each takes the other's interests into account, and if compromise solutions are found. All this, however, is being rejected and the result is that this week the war there flared up once again into the bloodiest and most destructive clashes, the bloodiest for 4 whole years. The political situation there now is completely abnormal; for several months the country has had no president and the parliament has simply been incapable of meeting to elect one. On the other hand, however, there are two governments and two cabinets, one of which is supported predominantly by Christians and the other mainly by Muslims. But there are clashes going on and fights breaking out even within these communities.

[Andrianov] Yes, but you see the situation in Lebanon does not exist in isolation; it's all bound up with the Near East conflict. Indeed, in many respects it's a product of the Near East conflict, and therefore the efforts now underway could, in my view, have a wholesome effect on the situation in Lebanon too.

[Kassis] Especially given that those efforts are becoming ever more persistent. There are two new elements that I would single out here: first, the changing attitudes of those actually involved in the conflict, particularly the PLO. Let me mention just their very latest move—the statement by Yasir 'Arafat's adviser Abu Sharif about the PLO being willing to accept the replacement of Israeli troops in the occupied Palestinian lands by U.S. troops.

This was a rather unexpected statement—a subtle tactical move as I see it—by the Palestinian leadership. It's a move that has to be seen in the context of the dispute breaking out within Israel over whether there should be talks with the PLO. While Prime Minister Shamir is directly opposed to the idea, 54 percent of Israeli military intelligence who, naturally, are aware of the real situation and who know that the PLO is indeed the most authoritative and influential force among the Arab population of the territories, where the uprising against the Israeli occupiers is continuing.

[Volskiy] However, the holding of a peace conference under the UN auspices still remains a key issue for the Near East. As I see it, there has not yet been any real progress in that direction.

[Kassis] There hasn't been any real progress, but there is something else—a broadening of the scope of negotiations taking place on this issue between the great powers, primarily the USSR and the United States. And this is the second feature of the present situation in the region. Until recently Washington had dealings only with Israel and with some, though not all, Arab governments—the conservative ones, mainly—and there was simply no question of any contacts with the PLO. But now, well, just last week the second round of talks between U.S. and PLO representatives took place; and this time they didn't just discuss secondary questions of protocol as before, but to all appearances, more substantial matters pertaining to a Near East settlement as well. As for the Soviet Union, we have also broadened the scope of talks: You know that Comrade Shevardnadze had a meeting with Israeli Minister Arens in Cairo not long ago. So as we can see both great powers, each for its own part, have established contact with all the parties to the Near East conflict, and I think this of course may help to bring a settlement nearer.

[Andrianov] Among the international events worthy of attention there are also, in my view, the new contacts within the framework of the Soviet-Japanese dialogue which took place this week—to be more specific, the Soviet-Japanese bilateral consultations held in Tokyo at the deputy foreign ministerial level and the sitting of the working group on a peace treaty between the Soviet Union and Japan.

[Volskiy] It is probably also worth mentioning that this was the ninth time these bilateral consultations have been held and that they have become a sort of tradition in Soviet-Japanese relations. As far as the peace treaty working group is concerned, this was its first sitting. Although it is now a constantly functioning mechanism, it was set up only very recently. An accord to this effect was reached in December of last year during the official visit to Japan by Comrade Shevardnadze, the Soviet foreign minister. The fact that the working group has begun functioning therefore is undoubtedly a step forward in Soviet-Japanese relations.

[Kassis] Incidentally, those same words were used to describe the meeting by Japan's Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno in reply to a question from deputies of the cabinet ministers' commissions of the lower chamber of the Japanese parliament. And he stressed that he intends to be persistent in his efforts to bring the talks to a successful conclusion.

[Andrianov] Which is precisely in line with our side's sincere endeavors. It is no secret that the Soviet Union attaches great importance to the development of good-neighborliness and cooperation with Japan and to reaching a peace treaty with that country, a treaty envisaged as a highly complex package of political, economic, geographical, and many other issues. As we see it, therefore, the task faced by the working group consists in giving the most comprehensive and detailed consideration to all aspects of a peace treaty and in finding a way of bringing the sides closer together. What is more, the Soviet side is willing to discuss any problem and places no ban on any issue at all, including those brought up by the Japanese side.

[Volskiy] At the same time, however, one cannot consent to the entire discussion being reduced to just one issue, and what is more, to an issue on which the sides' stances and arguments differ sharply. What I have in mind here are pronouncements by Tokyo's spokesmen to the effect that the so-called territorial issue is, allegedly, the only subject at the talks on concluding a peace treaty. It is thought in Soviet quarters that this appraoch will not bring success at the talks, but merely lead them up a blind alley.

[Kassis] There has to be a realistic approach here, an approach subsuming the need to realize just how many components go to make up relations between any two states in today's world, particularly two powers like the Soviet Union and Japan. And it would be politically short-sighted to hold these relations hostage, as it were, to solving one issue.

[Andrianov] Furthermore, one ought to bear in mind that all aspects of bilateral relations are interlinked, and that the solution of each individual problem depends to no little degree on how all the others are tackled and on the extent of mutual trust. It is very important now that, despite all the difficulties, the Soviet-Japanese dialogue should not be cut short, and that the relations between the two neighboring countries be truly elevated to a level in accordance with the spirit and demands of the day.

That is where we wind up today's meeting at the roundtable. All the participants thank you for listening, esteemed listeners. Goodbye, and all the best.

Vienna Arms Talks, Mideast, Elections Viewed

LD2603192889 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1357 GMT 26 Mar 89

[From the "International Panorama" program, presented by Nikolay Shishlin]

[Text] Hello, comrades! The law reducing the strength of the Soviet Armed Forces was published a few days ago. The Army is being reduced by half a million men and military expenditure is being reduced by 14 percent. This is a serious step. It is evidence of the deep changes that are taking place in international life and at the same time is evidence of the Soviet Union's faithful adherence to the new political thinking.

In the meantime, the first stage of talks devoted to the reduction of conventional armaments and additional confidence-building measures has ended in Vienna. The positions of the sides, of course, appear to be quite different, though there is a common understanding of the fact that it is essential to reduce the military arsenals in Europe. But how should they be reduced? How should one move toward that goal? That will be determined by the upcoming meetings between the diplomats and the soldiers. One way or another, however, both the diplomats and the soldiers, be they from NATO or from the Warsaw Pact, must find a new rhythm in the talks; they must find new imagination and not turn the talks into a long, drawn-out, aimless marathon.

Nor is the resumption of talks on reducing strategic offensive armaments all that far away. They were to have started in March, but the Americans wanted to define their position more precisely and to carry out a strategic assessment of the state of Soviet-U.S. relations. This is a normal process. Of course, there isn't any drama in this. But Cheney, the new U.S. defense secretary, asserts that Soviet military might is not being reduced and that the Americans must build up their military efforts. [video shows Cheney addressing a group]

That, of course, is a statement that belongs to yesterday, although these ritual gestures to past idols are acceptable to U.S. politicians. But how can one fail to notice the changes in the Soviet Union, including changes in military policy? That, of course, is something one must be able to do. Furthermore, the U.S. minister also let slip the observation that the reforms that are being carried out in the Soviet Union may be temporary and that one cannot, therefore, count on the cold war having ended. That, too, was a highly significant statement, but it too belongs to yesterday.

I think we will return to this later. For the moment here is another report, about the Israeli handover of the Egyptian territory of Tabah to its lawful owner, a decision that was made under international arbitration. This is good news, although more substantial, in my view, was the leak of the secret Israeli intelligence report—a deliberate leak, of course—containing ideas like this, that it is time Israel entered into a dialogue with the PLO, with the thought creeping in that one has to think about the fate of the occupied territories in general. Generally speaking, one can encounter such views quite often in Israel today, and one can do so in influential political circles, on the grounds that it is going to be necessary to return the occupied lands to their owners. If one considers that the Middle East equation can be solved by military means, then it is a totally pointless equation, just as one cannot put together equations of the kind that say a Middle East settlement can be achieved without the Palestinians or without Israel. None of those are working options. The essential thing in these details that I have mentioned is the fact that the prerequisites for vigorous new efforts to overcome this long, drawn-out, conflict are building up, a conflict which seriously complicates the situation not only in this zone.

But now, just for a second, I have to return to the statement by the U.S. defense secretary, who casts doubt on the fate of restructuring in the Soviet Union, the more so since today is the day of the election of people's deputies—they have already taken place in a number of constituencies—and, of course, since the results of the elections and the day itself, the consequences of this day, will require deep political reflection. This is, nevertheless, the first stage of the deep political reform in the Soviet Union. During the elections, each one of us has heard a great deal that is new, a lot of statements by the deputies. Some criticized the past, and not only the past, and all of them promised something for the future. But now it is extremely important that every deputy take a clear stance on what needs to be done and how it needs to be done in the name of restructuring and in the name of the revolutionary renewal of our society. We are going to need high quality work, knowledge, hard work; we are going to need ability, especially in view of the fact that our country's Congress of People's Deputies is due to meet in April.

It is worthwhile to look at the experience of other countries, especially since similar processes are developing in Hungary and in Poland and, incidentally, some very fruitful conversations took place this week between Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev and Karoly Grosz, the leader of the Hungarian Communists. We can see something similar in the People's Republic of China, too, and of course the West also has some solid experience in parliamentary work, the FRG in particular.

Amnesty International Talks 'Frank,' 'Useful'

LD2403142989 Moscow TASS in English 1244 GMT 24 Mar 89

[Text] Moscow March 24 TASS—By TASS correspondent Igor Agabekov:

Ian Martin, secretary general of the "Amnesty International", who is currently visiting the Soviet Union at the head of a delegation at the invitation of the State and Law Institute of the USSR Academy of Sciences, said today that their conversations here were frank and useful.

"We have discussed questions of international cooperation in the humanitarian sphere and have noted with satisfaction that the Soviet leadership is taking steps to protect human rights", Ian Martin said, describing the talks he had this Thursday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR and the Presidium of the USSR Academy of Sciences.

Asked whether the "Amnesty International" 's attitude to the human rights situation in the USSR had changed or not, Ian Martin said: "The fact that representatives of our organisation are here now, testifies to progress in this sphere. We welcome the beginning of this dialogue, which, I am sure, will be useful".

Your correspondent approached today Boris Tsepov, deputy chief of the Board for International Humanitarian Cooperation and Human Rights of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who said: "Our meetings with representatives of the 'Amnesty International' are of an informal nature. They are proceeding in a businesslike and constructive atmosphere. It is yet early to give them an overall appraisal, but it can be confidently said already now that talks to clarify the viewpoints of both sides are useful and will, undoubtedly, lay the foundation for future cooperation, the Soviet Foreign Ministry official said.

Gorbachev Greets International Film Festival

LD2403133789 Moscow TASS in English 1246 GMT 24 Mar 89

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Moscow March 24 TASS—Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has extended his cordial greetings to the first Moscow International Children's Film Festival and wished success to all those taking part.

The festival, attended by film-makers from nearly 50 countries of all continents, opened in Moscow on Friday.

"It is with profound emotion and hope that we look at the generation that is to live and work in the 21st century, Gorbachev said in his message.

"The international climate has noticeably warmed, the danger of military confrontation has decreased and measures of mutual confidence are being worked out.

A great deal of work is yet to be done to make a world without war and weapons a reality," the message said.

Gorbachev called on the film-makers to pool their efforts to materialise the lofty humanistic ideals.

Yeltsin Seeks To Attend Left Forum in Finland

LD2603083789 Helsinki Domestic Service in Finnish 0600 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Boris Yeltsin, the deposed head of the Communist Party in Moscow, would like to come to Finland next month. Yeltsin said in an interview with a Finnish correspondent that he is ready to attend the Left Forum that begins on 23 April, if the majority and minority Communists ask him to come and if the CPSU Central Committee gives him permission. [passage omitted]

United States & Canada

White House, Congress Agree on Central America

LD2403133389 Moscow TASS in English 1252 GMT 24 Mar 89

[Text] Washington March 24 TASS—The White House and Congress have reached a new, yet unofficial agreement on the main directions of U.S. policy in Central America. It came on the eve of the expiration of last year's law on non-military aid to Nicaraguan Contras.

The new policy provides for congressional action to provide additional funds for non-military aid to the Contras at least until February 1990 in exchange for the administration's promise to pay more attention to the effort to reach a settlement in Central America. An official statement on the new "new Central American policy" of the United States will be made this Friday after President Bush's meeting with congress leaders.

Bush Issues Statement on Mideast Peace Process

LD2603095489 Moscow TASS in English 0940 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] Washington March 26 TASS—U.S. President George Bush has issued a statement from his Camp David presidential retreat in Maryland, marking the tenth anniversary of the treaty of peace between Egypt and Israel. It was signed on March 26, 1979 as a result of negotiations between Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, Egyptian President Anwar al-Sadat and U.S. President Jimmy Carter. The Camp David peace pact based on the idea of Israel's separatist deals with its Arab neighbours, was criticised by the majority of the Arab states.

"There is a growing understanding that a settlement can be reached that satisfies Israel's security needs and addresses the legitimate political rights of the Palestinians," Bush emphasised in his statement.

"The Middle East today remains a dangerous and volatile area," Bush said. He added that the situation there was characterised by "deep-seated hostilities and legitimate security concerns," although some hopeful signs have started to appear recently.

The President said further that UN Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 could be used for a wider Middle East settlement. He also said that his administration was committed to this goal and would continue its search for peace in the Middle East.

Bush did not say anything about his administration's concrete policy in the Middle East. The President has repeated it many times that the United States was continuing to review its policy in that region.

Bush Meets With Five Shuttle Astronauts

LD2503093389 Moscow TASS in English 0816 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] Washington March 25 TASS—By TASS correspondent Andrey Fedyashin:

U.S. President George Bush at the White House Friday met the five astronauts who had completed last Saturday a five-day space mission on the shuttle discovery.

Bush congratulated the crew on the successful accomplishment of the flight.

He reaffirmed his administration's commitment to the shuttle programme and said that "our science missions open up new horizons of knowledge".

On behalf of the astronauts crew commander Michael Coats presented Bush with a U.S. flag, taken by the crew into space, on the occasion of the first flight of the new administration.

'Skepticism' Marks Reaction to Fusion Discovery

PM2603153389 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Mar 89 Morning Edition p 4

[Correspondent A. Shalnev dispatch followed by comments from Academician B. Kadomtsev under the rubric "We Report the Details": "Discovery of the Century Or...."; for additional reaction to the announcement of a breakthrough in cold nuclear fusion, see the Scientific section of today's DAILY REPORT]

[Text] New York—ABC Television began its main newscast with a report on a press conference at Utah University. What had been announced was indeed sensational. The Briton Martin Fleischmann and the American Stanley Pons announced that they had managed to discover a method of bringing about nuclear fusion "under the simplest of conditions."

If this is so, if further experiments confirm the discovery, a colossal step will have been taken along the road toward a long-standing dream of many scientists—the use of fusion as a cheap, reliable, and almost totally safe energy source. The fusion reaction takes place with light nuclei, but the fission reaction now utilized in conventional nuclear reactors takes place in heavy nuclei. Fusion's advantage as an energy source is that any water is full of the deuterium used in the process. Another important advantage is that there is minimal waste from the process.

The world's scientists have long been working on the problem of fusion. In the estimate of THE WASHINGTON POST, hundreds of millions of dollars have been spent in order to use the most sophisticated and at the same time very bulky equipment to create conditions reminiscent of those existing in the sun inside a giant nuclear synthesizer. As yet the result is that these experiments consume far more energy than they create.

The method used by Fleischmann and Pons is exceptionally simple. The experiment, the vice president of Utah University says, is similar to those carried out by first-year students using two electrodes immersed in a liquid. The scientists themselves say that, according to their forecasts, it will be comparatively easy to turn the discovery into technology that can be used for practical purposes—to generate heat, for instance. However, they add, "there is still work to be done."

Reaction to the Utah press conference in U.S. scientific circles is mixed. Attention is drawn to the fact that it was held before other scientists had been notified of the discovery and before a report on the discovery had been submitted for publication. That is unusual.

Second, there are suspicions that the practical utility of the discovery will be far smaller than the authors predict. In the opinion of Dennis Keefe of the University of California, Berkeley, the experiment is worth continuing. But, says the scientist, who is himself a specialist in fusion, as yet it is unrealistic to expect any substantial practical results: After all, the experiments are still yielding a very insignificant amount of heat—not enough even to bring water in steam turbines to the boiling point, for instance.

I think skepticism has spread faster than enthusiasm: Neither ABC nor other television companies are showing any more reports on the discovery. Press reaction has also been very meager.

An IZVESTIYA correspondent asked Academician B. Kadomtsev to comment on this report. He said:

"The report from New York is certainly sensational. But there is too little scientific information in it to permit any definite conclusions. For a fusion reaction to occur, nuclei must approach very closely. For this they have to possess a great relative velocity. So very high technology is required for an intensive reaction to occur. Very weak reactions can occur in less extreme conditions. For instance, neutron generators use a tritiated metallic target that is at room temperature. The target is struck by a beam of accelerated deuterium nuclei, which may, with a small degree of probability, enter into a fusion reaction with the tritium nuclei. Not enough information is provided by the correspondent to form a conclusion on the authenticity of the discovery. But it is clear that if a reaction is indeed taking place, it is obviously very weak and this process can scarcely be used to generate energy."

Tower Rejected Because of Opposition to SDI

LD2603132489 Moscow in English to North America 0000 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Commentary by Valentin Zorin]

[Text] The recent refusal by the American Senate to endorse the candidature of John Tower to the post of the Defense Secretary is an episode which will stay in the memories of Americans for a long time. There are more circumstances connected with it than the claimant's mere weakness for drinking. Incidentally, this side of Tower's character had been known, I think, to the senators long before his name was listed as a possible head of the Defense Department. It is most unlikely that the senators who worked side-by-side with him and who elected him chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee knew nothing about his bad habits. Besides, when Tower's candidature was discussed during the Senate hearings, it was revealed that some senators took part on many occasions in Tower's drinking parties. Strangely enough, at the first stage of Tower's proposed appointment as Defense Secretary, no one made any mention of his drinking habits or love affairs. It was claimed at the time at the Senate and by the mass media that his candidature would be approved without any difficulty.

A sharp turn in the attitude toward the senator was made when he questioned during the Senate hearing the feasibility of the SDI program and declared that if appointed to the defense secretary's post he would campaign against its realization. That sensational statement by Tower was a bombshell that caused immediate vicious opposition to his candidature. I'm convinced that Tower's negative attitude to the Star Wars program prevented him from becoming the defense secretary of the United States. It is not accidental that when the new candidature to the post was announced at the White House, the point was stressed that Richard Cheney was an active supporter of the SDI program. The current discussions around SDI taking place in Washington are not unfounded. Indeed, in the last 1 and ½ or 2 years it has been established in American scientific circles that the program has no solid scientific or technical foundation to back it up. It cannot be made real in the foreseeable future. Many are expressing doubts today if there is any sense in spending thousands of millions of dollars on such a plan.

As the longstanding chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Tower was of course well informed on that program and he knew what he did when he spoke against it. Though conservative by conviction, he found it necessary to pass his own judgement on the SDI plan, leaning on the facts known to him. The powerful Washington circles, however, who were interested in pushing the program forward and getting lucrative orders from it qualified as a challenge the stand of the senator who was preparing to become the Pentagon's chief.

China

Qian Qichen Welcomes PRC-USSR Normalization

LD2703155289 Moscow TASS in English 1415 GMT 27 Mar 89

[Text] Beijing March 27 TASS—Normalization of Sino-Soviet relations will further the cause of peace in Asia and globally, China's Foreign Minister Qian Qichen said.

Speaking at a press conference in Beijing in connection with the current sesion of the all-China assembly of people's deputies [the PRC National People's Congress], he said that the upcoming Sino-Soviet summit would have immense significance for the whole world. The leaders of the two countries will discuss questions of normalising the relations between the Soviet Union and China.

Rogachev Praises Development of PRC Ties

LD2403210989 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1259 GMT 24 Mar 89

[Text] Tokyo, 24 Mar (TASS)—The mechanism of border regulation between the Soviet Union and China is functioning practically without a hitch, Igor Rogachev, deputy USSR Foreign Minister, who is visiting here, declared. Speaking at a press conference, he announced that the sessions of the bilateral working group recently ended in Moscow, and these will now continue in Beijing. The border demarcation line in the western sector of the Soviet-PRC border is being examined. "In the East," Igor Rogachev pointed out, "we have already gone through virtually the whole border. Only small sectors and the islands off Khabarovsk are left without agreement. We shall discuss this issue again." According to the Soviet representative, there are still specific problems in the western part of the border, but these have not yet been fully examined. The main thing, he stressed, is that the sides agreed from the very start to conduct the negotiations in a constructive spirit, in the spirit of mutual compliance, taking account of each other's interests.

Describing the prospects for economic cooperation in the border regions of the Soviet Union and PRC, the deputy USSR foreign minister called them extremely favorable. They frequently surpass the boldest expections, he commented. Now not only border regions but also regions deep within the territories of both countries are participating in trade and economic cooperation, and contracts are being concluded very rapidly without coordination with the center; there is much less bureaucratic red tape. The sum total of contracts concluded last year between a number of Soviet border regions and neighboring Chinese provinces amounted to more than 1.3 billion Swiss francs. And this is only a part of the general picture, evidently, Igor Rogachev pointed out.

Sino-Soviet Navigation Commission Ends Talks

LD2703173189 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1553 GMT 27 Mar 89

[Text] Khabarovsk, 27 Mar, (TASS)—A routine session of the mixed Sino-Soviet commission on navigation in the border sectors of the Amur basin rivers was held here from 14-27 March. The sides agreed on plans for channel works, which would enable navigation conditions to be improved on border waterways. They also discussed matters concerning the further improvement of navigational safety. A relevant protocol was signed.

USSR Grants PRC First Credit in 28 Years

LD2703104189 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0909 GMT 27 Mar 89

[By Zoran Djordjevic]

[Text] Beijing, March 27 (TANJUG)—An agreement recently reached by Moscow and Beijing on a low-rate Soviet Government's credit of 200 million Swiss francs to China is considered here as exceptionally important not so much on account of the sum provided but, above all, by reason of its bringing a new quality in Chinese-Soviet economic cooperation.

In the wake of bitter experiences from the 60s with "Soviet aid" in credits, China was afraid and abhorred any further credit arrangements with the Soviet Union.

When in the late 50s and early 60s China and the Soviet Union quarreled, the then Soviet leader, Khrushchev, decided in July 1960, despite Chinese requests not to do so, to withdraw all 1,390 Soviet specialists from China and to demand from Beijing to immediately repay all debts and credits. At that time, the Soviet specialists were deployed in over 200 Chinese enterprises and Soviet credits were drawn on for key-projects for the development of China's national economy. Having this in mind, it is clear why the recent agreement on approving a first Soviet credit to China, after full 28 years, in essence amounts to a real breakthrough through psychological barriers in economic relations between the two countries.

As a matter of course, China is taking the now Soviet credit under quite different circumstances and on different terms. The two countries have come to an agreement in principle to get both their political and economic relations back to normal, have emphasised that these relations are not to return to the level of "brotherhood" and "alliance" from the 50s.

As adduced from Chinese sources, the credit-to-be will be used for updating one of China's main steel mills in the place of Baotou, inner Mongolia. Practically, it seems that the Soviet Union will not give China cash, but will credit exports of its equipment and technology for advancing China's production of steel. According to Chinese calculations, after having been renovated, the Baotou steel mill is expected to boost its output by 10 percent, this being of high importance for China. China is lacking much steel now and cannot help but—for all that it ranks among the world's biggest steel producers and produces almost 60 million tonnes of steel a year—import big quantities of this important material.

In the 50s, China developed its steel industry just through imports of Soviet technology, complete factories and plans, and also by way of Soviet management in the said factories. China's chief steel mills in Anshan, Baotou, Wuhan and Tiyuan were established just through cooperation with the Soviet Union. All of them are making business at present with obsolete equipment and ask aid from foreign countries to renovate them.

Under such circumstances, the "first" Soviet credit to Beijing is taking on a till greater importance since, for all practical purposes, it is paving the way for other life arrangements which, surely, can much boost the overall volume of economic exchance between China and the Soviet Union. Last year, China and the Soviet Union realized close to three billion dollars's worth in their commodity exchange both ways, an exceptional increase in relation to times before.

USSR-PRC Cross-Border Bus Service Begins

PM2403131589 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Mar 89 First Edition p 1

[Correspondent T. Yesilbayev report: "Route Across the Border"]

[Text] Panfilov, Taldy-Kurgan Oblast, 21 Mar—Passenger buses, opening a regular bus service between Panfilov and Yining, have passed through the Khorgos checkpoint on the Soviet-Chinese border.

Another step has been taken in the process of building mutually advantageous contacts between Soviet and Chinese border cities. Not only tourists but anyone who wishes to visit relatives living on either side of the border can use the services of the new international route.

Li Peng Discusses Tibet, Cambodia Policies

PM2403132589 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Mar 89 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "National People's Congress Session Continues"]

[Text] Beijing, 21 Mar—The Second Session of the Seventh PRC National People's Congress (NPC) is continuing in Beijing in the House of People's Assemblies. Some 3,000 deputies, representing all the provinces, autonomous regions, and cities under the country's central jurisdiction, have gathered here to discuss the most important issues of the state's economic and political life and a series of draft laws.

A report on the government's work was presented by Li Peng, member of the CPC Central Committee Politburo Standing Committee and premier of the PRC State Council.

The past year has been characterized by the continuing development of the national economy, he said. The gross national product has increased by 11.2 percent and national income by 11.4 percent. The restructuring of the system of planning, investments, material supply, and foreign trade has continued. The reform of government bodies is essentially complete.

Li Peng noted current difficulties and problems, of which the most serious is the high level of inflation. The real standard of living of a significant proportion of the country's urban population has fallen.

The head of government touched upon ethnic problems in China, describing them as "contradictions within the people." He termed the recent unrest in the administrative center of the Tibet Autonomous Region, Lhasa, as a provocation by a group of separatist elements. The premier of the State Council stressed that support for dissident activity carried out under the slogan of "independence for Tibet" represents blatant interference in China's internal affairs and is absolutely intolerable.

Describing the international situation, the speaker dwelt, in particular, on the normalization of Soviet-Chinese relations. Remarking on the approaching Soviet-Chinese summit meeting, he emphasized that the normalization of relations between the two countries is in the interests of the Soviet and Chinese peoples and also helps to promote peace and stability in Asia and the rest of the world.

The premier of the PRC State Council welcomed the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan and expressed the hope that the situation will stabilize in this country through the formation of a broad-based coalition government there.

Touching on the situation in Cambodia, he noted that China supports the formation of a provisional, quadripartite coalition government led by Norodom Sihanouk in the interests of peace in Cambodia and the prevention of civil war.

Presenting a report on the draft state plan for China's economic and social development in 1989, Yao Yilin, member of the CPC Central Committee Politburo Standing Committee and vice premier of the PRC State Council, noted, in particular, that the main task is to eliminate "overheating" in the economy, ensure a lowering of the price index, and guarantee a good harvest in the agricultural sphere. According to him, this year China plans to harvest 410 million tonnes of grain.

The report on fulfillment of China's state budget for 1988 and the draft state budget for 1989, presented by Wang Bingqian, member of the State Council and PRC minister of finance, noted definite successes since the PRC State Council adopted measures to improve the country's economic situation. Nevertheless, fulfillment of the 1989 state budget will be accompanied by many problems and difficulties, the speaker said.

The NPC session is continuing its work.

PRC Still Views Cultural Revolution Negatively

LD2703075589 Moscow TASS in English 0658 GMT 27 Mar 89

[Text] Beijing March 27 TASS—The Chinese central authorities have not changed and will not change their completely negative attitude to the so-called Cultural Revolution. The XINHUA News Agency reports that this idea was expressed here on Sunday by Rui Xingwen, member of the secretariat of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee.

He spoke to a group of legislators and political consultants on literature and arts, who participate in the current sessions of the Chinese National People's Congress and the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC).

During the meeting, Wu Zhuguang, prominent playwright and CPPCC member, expressed a serious [word indistinct] over the fact that in the recent past the Chinese press prints growing numbers of articles, interviews and reminiscencs seeking to whitewash some "Cultural Revolution" leaders, who often pen such writings themselves.

Noting that he was "puzzled" by this fact, Wu Zhuguang asked whether this meant some changes in the stand of the central authorities on "the Cultural Revolution".

Wu Zhuguang assured the audience that the attitude of the Chinese leadership to "the Cultural Revolution" did not change. It was and remains completely negative, he said.

Northeast Asia

Rogachev Meets Press on Soviet-Japanese Talks

Says Territorial Issues Discussed

LD2403234889 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1420 GMT 24 Mar 89

[Text] Tokyo, 24 Mar (TASS)—TASS correspondents Vladimir Kuchko and Vladimir Solntsev report: The Soviet Union shares the opinion of the Japanese Government that, as a result of the visit to Tokyo in December 1988 by Eduard Shevardnadze, USSR minister of foreign affairs, "new sprouts have appeared" in bilateral relations and the USSR considers that they should not only be protected but be nurtured by the efforts of the two countries so that they grow well. Igor Rogachev, USSR deputy foreign minister, stated this here today at a press conference.

Summing up the results of the consultations in Tokyo between the USSR Foreign Ministry and Japan's Foreign Ministry and of the session of the standing peace treaty working group, the Soviet representative noted that the discussions revealed points of continuity, similarity, and in several cases even coincidence of positions of the sides. Both we and our Japanese counterparts share the opinion that a positive tendency away from confrontation and toward dialog is developing in the world. We welcome the thaw in the political climate in the world and in the Asian-Pacific region. The Japanese side positively appraised the new political thinking of the Soviet Union, in particular the ideas advanced by CPSU Central Committee General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev at the UN, and welcomed the unilateral Soviet reduction of its armed forces and armaments. We have close positions on the elimination of chemical weapons and on strengthening the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons. Both sides consider undesirable the creation of closed economic groupings both in Europe and in Asia.

The participants in the talks were far from successful in finding points of agreement on all questions, the Soviet representative said. However, even on those aspects where the positions of the sides do not coincide, the discussion was calm and nonconfrontational. By showing the similarities and differences in our positions, we have facilitated the deepening of our general mutual understanding. I think that this is a good contribution to the accumulation of the positive aspects in our relations.

Speaking about the meeting of the working group, the USSR deputy minister of foreign affairs said that the Soviet side has set forth its concept of a peace treaty between the two countries. We have not yet received an answer from the Japanese side as to its conceptual notion of the content of the treaty. It is true that our partners have assured us that this will be done at the next meeting, which will take place in Moscow at the end of April.

One of the many matters that could form the basis of a peace treaty is the delineating of the border, Igor Rogachev noted, in answer to correspondents' questions. We consider that the border between the Soviet Union and Japan is determined by a series of international agreements made in wartime and in the postwar period. because it was not demarcated, naturally questions arise about carrying it out.

The USSR deputy minister of foreign affairs pointed out that during the talks the Japanese representatives raised the so-called territorial question. In this connection, the Soviet side recalled the practice of settling territorial disputes that exists between Japan and several other countries, particularly with the PRC. As is known, both sides decided to postpone the consideration of this problem to some future date. It seems to us that this is a wise and correct decision. The positions of the sides in disputes of that sort can be totally opposite. But if flexibility and statesmanlike wisdom is shown, if there is the political will for settlement, then it is possible to find a way out of the most difficult situations so that problems of this sort do not create friction in the relations between countries, and are not a point of discord.

Discussing the matter of the six agreements with Japan which the Soviet side proposed during the talks between the foreign ministers of the two countries in December 1988, Igor Rogachev rejected the attempts being made in Japan to portray the matter in such a way as to suggest that the Soviet Union "has started haggling over these agreements and is trying to get them by promising a summit-level visit in exchange." It was explained to the Japanese side that in discussing the concluding of agreements between two sovereign countries, the USSR proceeds from the principle of complete equality and mutual commitment. Only on these conditions can this or any agreement be discussed. The mention of six possible agreements in various spheres was merely a sort of invitation to dialogue, a search for the lines along which practical cooperation between the two countries might develop. The Soviet Union does not consider that these agreements must absolutely be discussed. There could also be some other areas where the two countries could make use of their huge scientific, economic, and technical potential.

The Soviet representative recalled that in December both Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita and Foreign Minister Uno spoke approvingly, on the whole, of the idea of firming up a summit-level visit to Japan and of the need to discuss practical issues in various spheres of Soviet-Japanese relations. And we had a right to expect that there would be some sort of development of these ideas at the consultations. Unfortunately, we have not seen a single concrete proposal. We hope this is not the Japanese side's last word, Igor Rogachev said.

Says Talks 'Free of Confrontation'

OW2703103989 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1200 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Report by Tokyo correspondent Potapov]

[Text] On 24 March Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Rogachev held a news conference attended by Japanese and Soviet reporters at the Soviet Embassy in Tokyo. In this connection, Moscow Radio correspondent in Tokyo Potapov reports as follows:

At the press conference, Deputy Foreign Minister Rogachev first talked about his meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister Uno. At the meeting, the two summed up the results of the ninth Soviet-Japanese deputy foreign ministerial level consultations and the first round of talks of the peace treaty working group. They also discussed several issues concerning bilateral relations in view of Foreign Minister Uno's forthcoming visit to the Soviet Union.

At the meeting, Foreign Minister Uno pointed out that new buds have sprung forth in Japanese-Soviet relations because of Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze's visit to Japan. In response, Deputy Foreign Minister Rogachev made the following remarks: We totally agree with such an assessment. It is necessary for us to treasure these buds and cultivate them well through joint efforts. As for the details of our consultations, we had a thorough exchange of views on broad international issues and bilateral questions. We were able to clarify our mutual positions and sense the efforts being made to find things that we have in common.

This does not mean that we were able to do so in all respects. However, the talks proceeded in a quiet atmosphere and was free of confrontation. The two sides were able to clarify common areas they shared or areas where they shared a common viewpoint, thereby promoting mutual understanding.

Next, let me talk about the first round of talks of the Japanese-Soviet peace treaty working group. An accord was reached concerning the working group when Foreign Minister Shevardnadze visited Japan. The holding of the first round talks means that the mechanism created under this accord has begun to function, and I am satisfied with this. This working group is engaged in a very complicated and important job. The talks conducted in the past several days showed this again. The Soviet side spelled out its plan for a peace treaty. The two sides compared each other's positions designed to cope with a series of facts which form the basis for a peace treaty.

These were the remarks made by Deputy Foreign Minister Rogachev. As Deputy Foreign Minister Rogachev stressed, the talks proceeded in a businesslike and constructive atmosphere, and it was felt that each side was eager to listen to the other side's views carefully and respectfully.

At the talks, the two sides agreed to schedule Japanese Foreign Minister Uno's visit to the Soviet Union for 30 April to 4 May. In addition, the second round of talks of the peace treaty working group will be held in Moscow toward the end of April.

Deputy Foreign Minister Rogachev then made the following remarks in answer to a question by the press corps: The two sides reached a consensus of views regarding the world situation. They pointed out that security cannot be achieved by military means and that it is necessary to develop dialogue between the East and the West in the future. The Japanese side welcomed the Soviet Union's new political thinking and hailed parts of General Secretary Gorbachev's speech at the UN last year. The two sides showed their deep interest in the need of abolishing chemical weapons. They also shared the view that they oppose the formation of closed economic blocs in Europe and Asia.

After making the above remarks, Deputy Foreign Minister Rogachev commented on three agreements proposed by the Soviet side at the talks. He said: The

Japanese side argued for only two agreements concerning exchanges in the field of tourism and environmental protection. Concerning these two agreements, the Japanese side made many [words indistinct].

As a result of a briefing by the Japanese Foreign Ministry, some of the Japanese mass media said that the Soviet side was trying to use the agreements as a means of bargaining by linking the conclusion of these agreements to the possibility of General Secretary Gorbachev's visit to Japan. The Soviet side attended the talks on the basis of complete equality and mutual benefit. This is the only attitude needed to discuss these agreements. We hope that progress will be made in this field in the future, Deputy Foreign Minister Rogachev emphasized.

Rogachev Meets With UN Official in Tokyo

LD2503044589 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0420 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] Tokyo, 25 Mar (TASS)—Igor Rogachev, deputy USSR foreign minister, received Rafeeuddin Ahmed, UN assistant undersecretary general, at the latter's request. There was a detailed exchange of views on the situation in Southeast Asia, and in particular on the course of the Cambodian settlement.

U.S. Embassy Guarded During Protests in Seoul

LD2703074889 Moscow TASS in English 0801 GMT 27 Mar 89

[Text] Tokyo March 27 TASS—By TASS correspondent Vladimir Solntsev:

Seven hundred riot police cordoned off the building of the U.S. Embassy in the South Korean capital on Sunday.

The measure was part of a show of strength staged by the administration of President No Tae-u, who last week ordered the law-enforcement agencies to take tough action against "left-wing forces, which were trying to stage a revolution to topple the government." Several thousand police were deployed outside government offices, American missions and on major street crossings with orders to fire on radicals if provoked. Nearly 13,000 U.S.-made M-16 automatic rifles have been issued to the security forces.

The YONHAP News Agency reported fresh clashes in Kwangju on Sunday "when police obstructed students who wanted to hold a demonstration in support of striking workers. Some 600 students threw stones and petrol bombs at policemen who sealed exits from the student campus of Chungbuk National University in the city of Chongju. Police in full combat gear were out in force at the Korean university in Seoul where one thousand students and other opponents of the regime held an anti-government meeting chanting "Down With No Tae-u".

"We demand the resignation of the No Tae-u regime which is not capable of carrying out democratic reforms and does not represent the nation," the National Coalition of Democratic Movements, the largest anti-government association which was set up recently, said in a statement.

Meantime, pressure has also increased on No Tae-u from right-wing forces which think that the current administration has gone too far in carrying out democratic reform. Lieutenant General Min Pyong-tong, the head of the military academy, said he would follow the example of the hardline minister of government administration, Kim Yong-kap, who advocated repressive measures against the left, and resigned. Speaking at the graduation ceremony at the ceremony at the academy last week, he criticised the No Tae-u policy of developing relations with socialist countries and even refused to salute the president.

Near East & South Asia

Reportage on Defense Minister's Visit to Syria

Yazov Previews Visit

JN2603103689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] Moscow—Soviet Defense Minister Dmitriy Yazov has described the forthcoming visit to Syria by the Soviet military delegation as one of the factors of the cordial ties existing between the Soviet people and the Syrian people and also between the armed forces of the two countries.

In a statement to the NOVOSTI Press Agency carried today, Yazov referred to the bilateral relations that are based on strong foundations within the framework of the friendship and cooperation treaty binding the two countries and which are developing successfully and said: This treaty provides for the exchange of opinions and consultations on a continuous basis on issues pertaining to bilateral relations, and also on international issues that are of common interest to the two sides. He added: The persistence in entrenching the pillars of Soviet-Syrian relations serves the two countries' interests, constitutes an important factor for ensuring security and stability in the Middle East, and serves the cause of struggle for independence, social progress, and peace.

In his statement, the Soviet defense minister stressed the need to exert efforts to convene a UN-sponsored international Middle East peace conference to establish a just and durable peace in the region. Yazov indicated that the danger jeopardizing the disarmament process is the absence of moves to bring about a just settlement in the Middle East region.

Yazov Leaves for Syria

LD2703073989 Moscow TASS in English 0718 GMT 27 Mar 89

[Text] Moscow March 27 TASS—General of the Army Dmitriy Yazov, alternate member of the Politburo of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee and USSR defence minister, left here for Damascus today for an official visit at the invitation of his Syrian counterpart, General Mustafa Talas.

At the airport Yazov was seen off by Nikolay Talyzin, alternate member of the Politburo and deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and by other officials.

Among the send-off party was Mohamed 'Isam al Na'ib, the Syrian ambassador to the USSR.

Yazov Arrives in Syria

LD2703134189 Moscow TASS in English 1327 GMT 27 Mar 89

[Text] Damascus March 27 TASS—Soviet Defence Minister Dmitriy Yazov arrived here today for an official visit at the invitation of Syrian Defence Minister Mustafa Talas.

The Soviet official was welcomed at the airport by Gen. Talas and other Syrian commanders. The welcoming party also included the Soviet ambassador to Syria, Aleksander Zotov.

Afghan Foreign Ministry Briefs Press on Fighting

LD2603205789 Moscow TASS in English 2046 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] Kabul March 27 TASS—The Afghan Foreign Ministry held a news briefing for local and foreign correspondents on Sunday.

Nabi Amani, director of the ministry's press centre, provided information on the military situation in Afghanistan.

The rebels supported by the Pakistani military launched a large-scale attack on the city of Jalalabad in Nangarhar Province, shelling the provincial centre with more than 12 thousand missiles, he said.

A total of twenty civilians were killed and some 30 wounded in the atrocious action. Twelve houses were destroyed and a school and a mosque were damaged. Three government troops were killed and 26 wounded.

Rebel tanks and armored troop carriers attacked Jalalabad from the direction of Sorhrud, [place name as received] Chaprahar and Kariz-Kabir [place name as received]. There were 110 military advisors from Pakistan and Saudi Arabia among the rebels.

The government air forces attacked the mujahidin bases, firing positions and columns killing 348 and wounding 169 rebels. Government artillery destroyed 24 missile launchers, 2 tanks and 16 military trucks. Two blowpipe antiaircraft missiles were seized.

The government troops forced enemy to retreat from the town of Samarkheyl and the Ghaziabad farm.

Rebels looted a marble-processing plant in the area and moved the farm's scientific laboratory to Pakistan, according to Amani.

The Afghan Armed Forces discovered 300 surface-to-surface missiles in the Towr Kotal District [place name as received]. On Friday they repelled the mujahidin attack on the Qandahar Airport.

Two commuter buses on their way from Said-Karam [place name as received] district to the city of Ghardeyz exploded on mines planted by rebels. Ten passengers were killed and five were seriously wounded.

Clashes between rival rebel groups in the Herat and Laghman Provinces continue. Six rebels were killed in fierce fighting there in the last twenty-four hours.

Clashes between the Islamic Party of Afghanistan led by Hikmatyar and the Afghanistan's Islamic Society led by Rabbani in the area of Pashtun-Zargun left eight people dead and five wounded.

The Afghan Foreign Ministry sent another seven notes to the UN mission of good services citing new facts of Pakistani violations of the Geneva accords.

Fighting Around Jalalabad Reported

LD2403183189 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1720 GMT 24 Mar 89

[Text] Kabul, 24 March (TASS) - The formations of the irreconcilable opposition, with the active support of the Pakistani malishas—the tribal militia—have launched a broad offensive against the town of Jalalabad—the administrative center of Nangarhar Province. Tanks, armored carriers, and other military technology are pitched against units of the Afghan army. According to reports, the Wahhabi—adherents of a religious and political tendency in Islam, whose actions are directed by instructors of the Saudi Army—constitute the backbone of the attackers.

Sixteen tanks and armored carriers, six rocket launchers, and several artillery weapons were destroyed by the artillery fire of government troops.

The groupings of the "irreconcilables" intensified the bombardment of inhabited quarters and the suburbs of Jalalabad, having fired more than 4,500 missiles, shells, and mortars on them in the past 24 hours. Ten peaceful inhabitants and Afghan servicemen died as a result of the barbaric action; 27 were injured. Among the victims were women and children.

The active transfer of weapons and ammunition is continuing from the territory of Pakistan to Konarha and Nangarhar Provinces. Aircraft of the Afghan Air Force have carried out a series of strikes on the regions in which the extremists are based and on their supply routes. Seven arms convoys which set off from the locations of the 11th and 18th infantry divisions of the land forces of Pakistan to Konarha and Nangarhar have been destroyed. Losses of the opposition groupings amount to more than 230 killed and 130 wounded.

Subunits of the Afghan armed forces carried out operations to eliminate extremist detachments in Qandahar and Herat provinces, destroying in total about 20 people.

The Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Afghan has sent to the United Nations Good Offices Mission three more notes with irrefutable proof of the infringement by Islamabad of the provisions of the Geneva accords.

Aghan Officer Describes Kabul's Defenses

PM2403171989 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
25 Mar 89 First Edition p 5

[Special correspondent V. Snegirev dispatch: "With the Defenders of Kabul"]

[Text] Kabul, March—We have known each other for exactly 8 years. We first met in Herat, where Senior Captain Muhtar Abdurrahman [name as published] commanded a divisional political department. Sudden grief had turned his graying temples completely white at that time: The officer's 16-year old sister Fazilya [name as transliterated] was killed in battle at the city's outskirts. Having joined the ranks of the Democratic Youth Organization of Afghanistan [DYOA], she volunteered to take part in combat operations. Ancient Herat's most beautiful street has been named after the girl, while her feat has been immortalized in a song. But how could this console the young captain?..

Our second meeting took place in the Pashto Paktia Province, where Muhtar headed a corps political department. His hair had turned even whiter, while his large and expressive eyes seemed to be eternally filled with grief. The bus in which his parents, poor peasants, were traveling had hit a mine near Jalalabad. Everyone was killed.

And now, years later, we met again. He is now a general, in charge of the Kabul Garrison political department. He took off his cap. His hair was white as snow. And just as one might expect, his life has been spent at war. How much he has seen, how much he has experienced! All his younger brothers have joined the military, while his children (he has six) have gone to sleep almost every night since they were born to the "lullaby" of automatic gunfire and missile explosions. War...

One of the general's main concerns today is associated with the organization of Kabul's defenses. After all, it cannot be ruled out that armed opposition detachments might storm the Afghan capital from different sides. No, they will of course be unable to take it by storm, but it is possible that they might try to get as close to it as possible, blockade the roads, and step up their shelling of the airport. This option of insurgent actions is certainly not ruled out, and this means that it is necessary to be prepared for it.

My colleague from IZVESTIYA and I asked Muhtar to tell us what is being done to strengthen the capital's defenses. The political department chief briefed us on the work of the garrison's operations staff, where all information about the situation in and around Kabul is collected and where crucial decisions are made. He showed us maps with defense lines and zones marked on them.

"Now we are giving special attention to the fourth and sixth zones," he explained. "It is from there—the northwest and the southeast—that missiles are most frequently fired at the city. Can you see this ravine? Three days ago we discovered 50 rocket projectiles there targeted at the airport and ready to be launched. The distance from the center of Kabul is only 35 km. According to our information, the insurgents have received from the United States new and improved rocket projectiles with a flight range of up to 50 km."

"Yes, in the wake of Jalalabad they will hardly launch a direct assault," the general agreed. "Nevertheless, bearing this possibility in mind, we are reinforcing the positions around the city and stepping up the combat readiness of personnel in units and subunits. There are days when up to 20,000 citizens take part in the digging of entrenchments and fighting and communications trenches."

"Is there any likelihood of covert infiltration of Kabul by large opposition forces?"

"I don't think so. This is because the majority of people do not support the extremists. Kabul's citizens will simply refuse to give them shelter."

"It is well known that part of the capital's troops have been transferred to the east, to help the defenders of Jalalabad. Has this not weakened Kabul's defense potential?"

"We have sufficient forces left. It has also been planned to arm 5,000 aktiv members from the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, the DYOA, and the trade unions. Employees of all ministries have also undergone military training."

The general then suggested that we visit one of the defense strongholds situated to the southeast of the capital, not far from the Bagrami [name as transliterated] Textile Factory.

Our all-terrain vehicle found it difficult to make it up the road, turned into a mud track by the heavy rainfall, to the top of the clay mound with dugouts and firing positions cut into its side. The guns of two infantry combat vehicles were aimed at the nearby mountains. The soldiers were busy with domestic chores.

The outpost commander, Senior Lieutenant Muhammad Asef, gave a situation report: No enemy sightings, everything normal. From up there we had a good view of ragged green fields and the sparkling ribbons of irrigation ditches. One did not want to imagine that a battle would be fought there.

But it is nearby, this undeclared and endless war, it is just on the other side of these mountains. Also beyond those. It is everywhere. It has taken away the relatives of my friend Gen Muhtar Abdurrahman and turned his hair prematurely white. The war has struck millions of peasants, making many of them either refugees or "fighters for the faith." The war has ruined the country, sowing in almost every single home sorrow, fear, and uncertainty about tomorrow.

Will Muhtar ever take off his military uniform? Will he ever manage to get on a bus and travel to the village near Jalalabad where he spent his, literally speaking, barefoot childhood? Will his children ever see a clear sky? Will this land—having suffered so much and been consumed by fire—ever breathe freely again?

All this is so much to be wished.

P.S. Good news has only just arrived from Jalalabad: A convoy of vehicles from Kabul has arrived in the city, having broken through the insurgents' lines. Ground communications have thus been restored between the capital and Nangarhar Province.

Petrovskiy Meets Soviet Afghan POW Official

LD2503173789 Moscow TASS in English 1725 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] Moscow March 25 TASS—Vladimir Petrovskiy, Soviet deputy foreign minister, met here on Saturday with Mikhail Shemyakin, a painter, co-chairman of the New York-based International Committee for the Rescue of Russian Prisoners of War in Afghanistan.

Petrovskiy positively assessed the activities of the international committee and expressed on behalf of the Soviet Government a profound concern over the fate of Soviet servicemen taken prisoner by the Afghan armed opposition.

Shemyakin told the deputy foreign minister about the activities of the international committee headed by him and pointed out that its members were working hard for promoting the release of the Soviet soldiers taken prisoner in Afghanistan.

Pakistani Writes to Bush About Afghanistan

LD2703100689 Moscow TASS in English 0945 GMT 27 Mar 89

[Text] Islamabad March 27 TASS—By TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Aleksandrov:

In a letter to President George Bush, Abdul Wali Khan, member of the Pakistan parliament and chairman of the People's National Party, has called on the United States to help stop the bloodshed in Afghanistan. The Pakistani political leader made a similar call to the United Nations in the message he addressed the other day to Perez De Cuellar, secretary general of the United Nations.

Wali Khan, the newspaper FRONTIER POST says, drew the American President's attention to the explosive situation in western Pakistan and in Afghanistan. He said that the hopes of the people of Pakistan that peace would be brought about by the Geneva Accords had not materialised. The Soviet Union has pulled out its troops, the PNP chairman pointed out. Interference in the domestic affairs of Afghanistan did not stop after that, but, on the contrary, has increased. This goes to show that the true reason behind the Afghan conflict was not Soviet military presence there, but outside intervention.

Abdul Wali Khan stressed that the United States, as a guarantor of the Geneva Accords, was not carrying out its commitments. And this is happening despite the fact that interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan is spearheaded exactly against the values and ideas which the United States allegedly upholds—against freedom, democracy and human rights.

The PNP leader believes that not only regional peace is in danger today. There exists a concrete threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Afghanistan, to the very existence of the Afghan nation. Continued interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan is liable to bring about unpredictable consequences for Pakistan, too. In the light of this, Abdol Wali Khan urged the United States to help arrange peace talks among different Afghan forces with a view to achieving an early settlement of the conflict.

Pakistan's Bhutto Favors Developing USSR Ties

LD2503135689 Moscow TASS in English 1318 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] Vienna March 25 TASS—Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto declared in favour of developing relations with the Soviet Union. She emphasized in an interview published in the Austrian newspaper STANDARD on Saturday that Pakistan strove for "good relations with Moscow".

The withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan opens up an opportunity for that. In Islamabad I had talks with representatives of the Soviet leadership, Bhutto recalled. We shall continue to proceed along this path.

Touching upon large-scale reforms being effected in the Soviet Union, she pointed out that their realisation required courage.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev was courageous enough to set about restructuring society and I admire that, Bhutto emphasised.

Iraq Foreign Minister Meets Polyakov in Baghdad

LD2503201489 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1752 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Mar (TASS)—Vladimir Polyakov, member of the collegium of the USSR Foreign Ministry, who is in Baghdad, was received today by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

During their detailed conversation there was an exchange of opinions regarding the implementation of Security Council Resolution 598 as the basis of establishing peace between Iran and Iraq, and also on the situation surrounding Afghanistan.

Meeting on CEMA-PDRY Cooperation Opens 26 Mar

LD2703103389 Moscow TASS in English 0741 GMT 27 Mar 89

[Text] Aden March 27 TASS—A meeting of experts of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) member-countries and the Democratic Yemen opened here on Sunday. This, the second meeting of its type, is to prepare the third meeting of the mixed commission on cooperation between CMEA and Democratic Yemen which is planned for November this year. Delegations from the Democratic Yemen, Bulgaria, Hungary, GDR, Cuba, the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia are participating.

The meeting will discuss the fulfillment of the decisions of the second meeting of the mixed commission on cooperation which took place in September 1988 in Moscow and realisation of cooperation projects. The participants will also exchange opinions on working out a draft programme of training of Democratic Yemen specialists, the establishment of CMEA-Yemen joint ventures and discuss conditions to build industrial and other enterprises in the free zone. The meeting will discuss the implementation of the decision of the CMEA Executive Committee to improve the work of mixed commissions on cooperation between CMEA and developing countries.

CPSU Greets Israeli Communist Party

PM2703104189 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Mar 89 Second Edition p 1

[Message from CPSU Central Committee "To the Israeli Communist Party Central Committee"—PRAVDA headline]

[Text] Dear Comrades!

The CPSU Central Committee sends cordial greetings on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the formation of your party, with which we are traditionally linked by sincere relations of comradeship.

Throughout its complex history the Israeli Communist Party has consistently defended the interests of the working people and the ideals of democracy and socialism. As the expressers of the people's underlying aspirations, the Communists act as the convinced champions for the ending of conflicts in the Near East.

We assess highly the fact that thanks to your activity the Israeli public is better aware of the fact that peace will come to your house not through the aid of weapons but through respect for the lawful rights of the Palestinians and all Arabs.

We wish the Israeli Communist Party new successes in resolving the tasks that face it and in your struggle for a better future for the Israeli people.

[Signed] The CPSU Central Committee.

East Europe

Reportage on Visit to USSR of Hungary's Grosz

Grosz, Gorbachev Hold Talks

LD2403173889 Budapest MTI in English 1502 GMT 24 Mar 89

[Text] Moscow, March 24 (MTI)—Karoly Grosz and Mikhail Gorbachev held a discussion lasting almost four hours on Friday morning. Gyula Thurmer, foreign political advisor to the general secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party [HSWP], said in his briefing that the cordial, comradely talks of the two party leaders took place in an extremely open and good atmosphere.

Mr Grosz informed his counterpart about the position of Hungary and the HSWP current economic issues and the switchover to the multiparty system, and his Soviet partner showed great understanding towards the Hungarian situation. Mr Gorbachev stated that Hungary's future lies in socialism, the road to which leads through stability and the dyanmic, concerted implementation of political and economic reforms.

Mr Gorbachev pointed out that, although the political reforms had given impetus to restructuring, the Soviet Union was facing problems in food supply and market balance.

In connection he pointed out that, although the political reforms had given impetus to restructuring, the Soviet Union was facing problems in food supply and market balance.

In connection with the question of national minorities, he said that a global concept on the issue was shortly to be drawn up, parallel with the elaboration of a further chapter of ideas professed about socialism. Preparations are now under way for the autumn session of the Central Committee which is designed to assess concepts about socialism and its renewal.

Speaking about bilateral relations, the parties expressed their intention of maintaining political cooperation and broadening it with the new opportunities offered by socialist renewal and reform in the two countries and interest in each other's success. The Soviet partners received with understanding the Hungarian demand for updating bilateral economic links. They agreed they would study ways for a gradual changeover to a more modern system of commercial settlements in dollars at world market prices. The political support of the Soviet party was apparent at the talks.

Both parties emphasized the need for CEMA to undergo radical changes. Mr Gorbachev stressed they would uphold all Hungarian proposals aimed at a comprehensive reform of the organization. There was agreement as to the necessity of updating the Warsaw Treaty, whilst it was formulated that, because of present-day reality, the two military political organizations were still required, notwithstanding the favourable changes in international life.

Concerning the question of neutrality, the Soviet party said, referring to international experience, that the current political conditions give none of the member countries a realistic chance to be neutral. Nevertheless, they should work to render their political military alliances more democratic and more up-to-date, and to show the outside world their willingness to proceed towards the simultaneous abolition of the two military organisations.

The party general secretaries' meeting was attended by Gyula Thurmer, foreign political advisor to the general secretary, and Georgi Shanazarov, head of department of the Central Committee.

Grosz, Gorbachev View Cooperation

PM2503193389 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Mar 89 Second Edition p 1-2

[TASS report: "Meeting Between M.S. Gorbachev and K. Grosz"]

[Text] A meeting took place 24 March between M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and K. Grosz, general secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party [MSZMP], who is in the Soviet Union on a working visit.

The present conversation, like previous meetings between Comrades Gorbachev and Grosz, was held in a spirit of mutual understanding and comradeship. The talk covered topical questions relating to the improvement of socialism, a fuller utilization of the accumulated experience of social transformations, and key issues of cooperation between the Soviet Union and Hungary.

The leader of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party [MSZMP] spoke of the processes of renewal that have begun in Hungarian society at the initiative of the party and of the approaches to surmounting the difficulties that lately have arisen. He stressed that in the period of turbulent changes being experienced by the country, the guiding role of the MSZMP and its alliance with all realistically-minded forces in the nation are the key guarantees of political stability and dynamic development along a socialist path. Aware of its responsiblity, the party is setting the goal of rallying its ranks and increasing their activity on the basis of a program of democratic socialism.

Karoly Grosz said that Hungary had followed the work of the March plenum of the CPSU Central Committee with rapt attention and had published its materials in full. Informing his guest, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev stressed that the decisions of the plenum go beyond the framework of the agrarian question. In essence it is a matter of a new quality of socialism. He spoke of the measures being undertaken to improve the economic situation in the country. It is now important above all to normalize monetary circulation, fully supply the market with food and consumer goods, increase the volume of services, maintain an accelerated pace of housing construction, and tackle other social problems. All this requires the further development of the economic reform. Simultaneously, political life in the country is being made more lively. The USSR people's deputies election campaign has become a genuine school of democracy for Soviet society.

The participants in the conversation concurred that, in the current atmosphere where a search for ways to renew society is underway in the socialist countries and new economic forms and political institutions are being tested, an exchange of opinions and experience and live contacts at all levels are especially useful.

The leaders of the two parties evaluated in a positive way the overall state of Soviet-Hungarian cooperation. At the same time, attention was drawn to the existence of major reserves which, if utilized, can benefit both countries. This requires, above all, the expansion of the commodity-money foundations in economic contacts, and broader utilization of contemporary methods of cooperation in industry and the scientific-technical sphere. It was agreed that specialists of the two countries will be charged with studying these questions together and with presenting their proposals for the renovation of the currency and financial instruments.

Along with matters relating to bilateral economic relations, the prospects for developing multilateral coperation within the CEMA framework were also discussed. Grosz noted the importance of creating a unified market, for which the formation of national markets can become a prerequisite. For his part, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev noted that the Soviet Union intends to enter the European and world economy, which will require the carrying out of a number of transformations in the economic mechanism.

During the discussion of international issues, comrades Gorbachev and Grosz noted that right now favorable conditions exist for deepening the political dialogue, and giving greater scale and quality to the economic and humanitarian cooperation between all the states of Europe. As for the socialist countries, they have given a lot of evidence of late of their goodwill and readiness to move further in this direction. Of course, this is only possible provided that there is mutual respect of interests, on the basis of a sensible all-European and universal balance between them.

During the conversation, which passed in a cordial atmosphere, other matters of mutual interst were also discussed. Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev asked his interlocutor to pass on congratulations to the Hungarian comrades in connection with their forthcoming national holiday and wishes for the successful tackling of difficult problems that the fraternal party and this country face.

A luncheon was given in honor of the Hungarian guest on behalf of the CPSU Central Committee. Comrades N.I. Ryzhkov, E.A. Shevardnadze, A.N. Yakovlev, and other officials were there.

Grosz, Gorbachev Rule Out Neutrality

LD2403135789 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1300 GMT 24 Mar 89

[Text] In Moscow, Karoly Grosz and Mikhail Gorbachev held a working lunch. Gabor Izbeki reports from the Hungarian-Soviet summit:

[Izbeki] Karoly Grosz and Mikhail Gorbachev agreed that Hungary's future can be envisaged within the framework of socialism, and although in recent times the international situation has improved, neutrality is still inconceivable today. At the same time, both sides are striving for the complete elimination of the military blocs.

The Soviet leader viewed the developments in Hungary with understanding. It was emphasized at the talks that political and economic reforms must develop harmoniously. Both sides also wish the development of bilateral economic relations; and in the long term, a gradual turnover to business accounting is conceivable, too. The Soviet Union supports all Hungarian ideas regarding the development of CEMA; it agrees with these.

In connection with Soviet internal politics, Gorbachev said political reform has given great impetus to development. He gave particular information on their ideas regarding the nationality policy and announced that in the Soviet Union, in the fall, there will be a Central Committee session in which they will summarize the new ideas evolved so far on the future of socialism.

The talks, which lasted over 3 hours, were conducted in a very cordial, sincere, comradely atmosphere. They said both sides have a mutual interest in the success of the other.

In the meantime, Karoly Grosz' international news conference is just starting.

Grosz Holds Moscow News Conference

LD2403210189 Budapest Television Service in Hungarian 1830 GMT 24 Mar 89

[From the "Newsreel" program]

[Excerpts] Karoly Grosz held discussions in Moscow with Gorbachev. Shortly before the discussions, the Soviet party general secretary gave a brief answer to the question by Mihaly Hardi, staff member of the Newsreel program. And on the way home, Karoly Grosz also gave an interview to Newsreel.

[Begin recording] [Hardi] In Hungary, the conditions are given for us to find a way out of the difficult situation through democracy and pluralism. What is your opinion on this?

[Gorbachev, in Russian with translation into Hungarian] My opinion is that socialism cannot assert the possibilities latent within it without democracy. I understand democracy to mean the real participation of the workers in the social processes, since this is the society of the workers. In the past we often forgot these words of Lenin. After all, socialism is the living, creative, activity of the masses. [end recording]

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] After these words, Mikhail Gorbachev greeted Karoly Grosz. [passage omitted] Then, for the first time in the course of such general secretary meetings, the leader of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party summed up at an international press conference the results of his Moscow discussions. Karoly Grosz said:

[Grosz] I can state with conviction that nothing can replace an honest, open exchange of views and conversations. We are living in a world where we not only must know one another but must also understand one another. It was in this spirit that we talked with Comrade Gorbachev last year, in July as well, when I was here in

Moscow. Then, at the session of the Warsaw Pact Political Consultative Body, we also talked about topical international and bilateral issues, which are of interest to all of us. Our contact has been continuous and substantive since then. I would like to stress, in particular, that in the course of our conversation, I had the opportunity to express my thanks to the Soviet party leadership for the fact that they pay such attentive consideration to the situation, the fate, of the Hungarians living in the Soviet Union. It makes us happy that the Hungarian nationality has the possibility to retain and foster its profile, its national traditions.

[Unidentified reporter] In answer to another question, Karoly Grosz said:

[Grosz] Naturally, we also spoke about the issue of the multiparty system, and I considered it my duty to inform my host of the considerations on which we base our support for this endeavor. We believe that in order to encourage a variety of views in Hungary, there is also a need for the appearance of political parties. We feel that we must satisfy this social demand. Those differences of views that can come to the surface in the course of the building of socialism, in the debates between the parties, can be better crystallized, and jointly, in the course of the debates, we can better find the correct answers to the questions that arise. Naturally, the way and form in which the political structure of a country is built is an internal affair of the particular country.

[Hungarian TV reporter] My question is on behalf of Hungarian TV's Newsreel program. Internal political debates are underway in Hungary in which there is a great deal of interest here in the USSR as well. I am thinking of the history of the recent past, for example the evaluation of the 1956 events; the debates surrounding this have aroused a very big reaction here in the USSR. Did this come up in the discussions with Mikhail Gorbachev?

[Grosz] Yes, this also came up. Naturally. The Hungarian party today has the political duty, and it is also a condition of development, to take into account the experience of the past 4 decades. The year 1956 also belongs to the 4 decades. I do not believe it to be the most essential event of the past 4 decades, but it was a very important event, since this was a tragic moment in the life of the Hungarian people. During this conversation, we also took time to take account of the international circumstances that influenced the events and happenings of 1956, and also to exchange experiences about how and in what way the processes shaped 1956. How did this event evolve from a student demonstration, to an uprising [felkeles], to a counterrevolution? What motivations influenced those involved? From the perspective of 33 years, the events can be judged much more soberly, and I can say that in the the assessment of the situation, in the formulation of the circumstances' emphases, we approached the question in an identical manner.

We also jointly agreed that we shall further research the causes and take account of the events which at that time influenced the various types of decisions. In the political evaluation, it is very important that we take account of the chronology of the events, because, after all, in those moments the situation changed virtually from hour to hour. And the documents, the authentic documents, can give us more precise directions than can the recollections, which, against one's best intentions, are, well, full of elements that are to a certain degree subjective.

For this very reason, a very important part of our agreement is that we shall take account of the events of 1956 and those surrounding them, on the basis of original documents and papers.

On the occasion of my last visit as well, economic cooperation was given a prominent role. Since the summer of last year, I have not experienced any essential, significant development in practice. It appears that CEMA, as an international economic organization, is renewing itself very slowly and with difficulty. It finds it difficult to integrate the differences in interests and needs that are present in every national economy. For this reason today, at our conversation, first and above all we placed emphasis on the further development of bilateral economic relations.

[Hungarian radio reporter] Hungarian radio's question: In the past 2 years you have been here as premier, and now for the second time as general secretary. Did Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev show any interest in coming to Hungary to see how our reform is developing, and was there any concrete mention of the possibility of such a meeting?

[Grosz] Last year we invited Comrade Gorbachev to Hungary, naturally, and we await him at any time, cordially and with pleasure. And we would be happy to show him the experiences in Hungary. During our conversation, however, he said that his schedule for this year is also extremely full, so it is unlikely that it will happen in the near future. But the Hungarian party—and I believe, the entire Hungarian people—would receive him with great interest whenever he can find the time for a visit to Hungary. We always have things to talk about. [end recording]

Further on Grosz News Conference

LD2403220189 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1730 GMT 24 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Gabor Izbegi has prepared this summary of the international press conference Karoly Grosz held in Moscow.

[Begin recording] [Izbegi] There was not a single issue on which the opinions of Karoly Grosz and Mikhail Gorbachev differed during the more than 3- hour-long meeting. This is how the general secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party began expounding his view on the negotiations and bilateral relations at the international press conference held today. Karoly Grosz continued by saying that there were no conflicts of interest, and therefore he was going home very satisfied, with a rich basket of experience. We have observed on the Soviet side the intention and readiness to cooperate and discussed this, too. Political cooperation is of a very high standard but the same thing cannot be said of economic cooperation.

Following the short introduction, the first issue raised, by the Austrian TV correspondent, was that of neutrality.

[Grosz] Our stand has not changed, we are consistently struggling for the elimination of the two military blocs in Europe. As soon as it takes place, I believe Hungary's neutrality will no longer be a question. There is complete agreement between us on this issue.

[Izbegi] It may be considered a reflection of priorities that the second question, put by the West German DIE ZEIT correspondent, concerned the multiparty system and asked whether Karoly Grosz could see himself as a leader of an opposition party.

[Grosz] Naturally, the manner and form in which the political structure of a country is built is an internal affair of the particular country. By the way, I would like to tell you that it is an old conviction of mine that the issue of one party or many parties is not the most important question in the practice of democracy. Regarding your question as to whether I can see myself in an opposition party and in the leadership of an opposition party, I can say to you that the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party [MSZMP] will achieve the leading role for itself in the political battlefield in the coming period, too. [passage omitted]

[Izbegi] I have not noted any improvement in the economic relations of the socialist countries since last year, Karoly Grosz began in reply to a question from a special correspondent of [Hungary's] VASARNAPI HIREK [SUNDAY NEWS], and he continued as follows:

[Grosz] It appears that CEMA is renewing itself very slowly and with difficulty and, therefore, during our discussion today we placed the emphasis—first and foremost—on the further development of bilateral economic relations. In principle we have agreed to jointly endeavor to formulate as soon as possible a new system of accounting and a new mechanism.

[Izbegi] The Hungarian-Romanian relationship was not discussed at the negotiations, Karoly Grosz said tersely, and in his view the dispute between Bucharest and Budapest does not affect our relations with other socialist countries. However, the MSZMP general secretary noted with satisfaction the improvement of the situation of the Hungarians the Transcarpathia region.

Karoly Grosz, at the request of the Moscow Radio correspondent, also compared the progress of the economic and political reforms taking place in our homeland and in the Soviet Union.

[Grosz] In Hungary we feel we should be advancing in the sphere of economic reforms more rapidly because a dangerous gap is beginning to appear between economic and political reform and if, against our intentions, the economic reform does not develop at an appropriate speed, it can adversely affect the political reform process presently being formed and enriched. I cannot judge to what degree and speed the internal economic reform process of the Soviet Union should advance with regard to the given circumstances and the given economic circumstances of the Soviet Union, but I know—on the basis of consultations with Comrade Ryzhkov and others—that here, too, great efforts are being expended to accelerate the reform process.

[Izbegi] At the end of the almost 1-hour-long press conference, the future of the Hungarian-Soviet party summits was discussed. The Hungarian Radio correspondent asked when we will see Mikhail Gorbachev in Hungary again.

[Grosz] It is unlikely that it will happen in the near future. But the Hungarian Party—and I believe, the entire Hungarian people—would receive him with great interest whenever he can find the time for a visit to Hungary. [end recording]

Grosz Statement at News Conference

LD2503113189 Moscow International Service in Hungarian 2000 GMT 24 Mar 89

[Excerpt] We now broadcast excerpts from the press conference Karoly Grosz, general secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Worker's Party [MSZMP], gave in the press center of the Soviet Union's Foreign Ministry.

[Begin Grosz recording] My honored guests, ladies and gentlemen. First I thank you for coming in such numbers to this meeting. I hope you will not be disappointed. In your presence here I see your interest in the Hungarian People's Republic, and I am happy to have the opportunity to conduct an exchange of views, because we are living in a very exciting period today, both in our country and in the world. At our discussion today this was precisely the topic. But before I go on to the details I would like to say a few words about the antecedents of the visit and its motivation.

I can state with conviction that nothing can replace an honest and open exchange of views and conversations. We are living in a world where we not only must know one another but in which we must also understand one another. It was in this spirit that we talked with Comrade Gorbachev last year and in July, when I was here in Moscow. Then, at a session of the Warsaw Pact Political

Consultative Body, we likewise talked about topical international and bilateral issues which interest all of us. Since then, our contact has been continuous and substantive.

As you know, significant events in the life of the Hungarian party took place last year. In May of last year we held a party conference where we worked out the main concepts of developing the Hungarian political system. The aim of this visit, therefore, is that I should give a briefing about the experiences gained in work and of the lessons of the past 10 months. Since the summer of last year, however, events of great significance have occurred here in the Soviet Union as well. So, the experiences ammassed here can also be useful to us.

We in Hungary are now taking strong steps for the extension of socialist democracy and the creation of constitutional statehood. As a part of this, we are working on shaping a multiparty system. We are also evolving new methods in the interests of developing the economy. We see that here also in the Soviet Union political reform has intensified, and in the economic sphere we have also witnessed significant new intiatives. The renewal both in Hungary and here in the Soviet Union brings new problems to the surface; we must face issues hitherto unknown. For this reason, therefore, we find this exchange of opinions about experiences extremely useful and expedient. This helps us avoid misunderstandings that are bound to arise.

I must immediately say that we pursue consultations with exactly the same openness with the other socialist countries, with our sister parties, and with everyone who is interested in the life of our country. The changes in international events also justify discussions. We believe that the new U.S. policy on Eastern Europe, which is being formed, the deepening of West European integration, the issues of disarmament, the possibility of East-West cooperation, and the demand to modernize our own political, economic, and military systems justify the meetings. All this has provided the topics of our discussion.

At the same time, it is natural that we devoted primary attention to bilateral relations and the issues of cooperation. I am happy to note that in the more than 3-hour meeting we held in a restricted sphere, there was not a single issue where our opinions might have diverged or where we might have experienced some difference of interests. For this reason I can already evaluate the initial balance of this meeting. We are going home with a rich fund of experiences and with the readiness and desire for cooperation. Therefore, I must say that in the political sphere, cooperation is of a high, exacting standard. This cannot be said so emphatically in the economic sphere. In our economic cooperation we have not yet exploited the possibilities at our disposal in the two countries' relations.

I would like to stress in particular that during our conversations I had the opportunity to express my thanks to the Soviet party leadership for the fact that they pay such attention to the situation and fate of the Hungarians living in the Soviet Union. It makes us happy that the Hungarian nationality has the possibility to retain and foster its profile and its national traditions. We could list very many examples of this. I will not do that, but I will now turn the time over to you. Thank you for listening. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Grosz Departs; Seen Off by Yakovlev

PM2503194589 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
25 Mar 89 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Visit Ends"]

[Text] On 24 March Hungarian Socialist Workers Party [MSZMP] General Secretary Karoly Grosz left the Soviet Union having completed a working visit at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee.

He was seen off at the airport by A.N. Yakovlev, Politburo member and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, V.M. Falin, chief of the CPSU Central Committee International Department, and other officials.

The sendoff party included USSR Ambassador to Hungary B.I. Stukalin and Hungarian Ambassador to the USSR S. Rajnai.

During the 3-hour conversation with M.S. Gorbachev there were no questions on which our opinions did not coincide or on which our interests diverged, K. Grosz said at a meeting with journalists in Moscow arranged at the USSR Foreign Ministry Press Center before his departure. Nothing can take the place of an open exchange of opinions, he said, since we need not only to know, but also to have a fine understanding of one another. In Hungary and in the Soviet Union the renewal processes are throwing up new problems, and issues that were never before contemplated are being encountered. It is in this sense that we consider these meetings very important and expedient.

Talking about the content of his conversation with the CPSU Central Committee general secretary, K. Grosz said attention was focused mainly on matters of bilateral cooperation. Political ties between Hungary and the Soviet Union are at a high level, which cannot be said of economic cooperation. According to the MSZMP [Hungarian Socialist Workers Party] general secretary, our countries do not exploit all the potential they possess in this area. Having dwelt on the situation in Hungary, he pointed out that significant events took place in the life of the party and country last year. Important steps have been taken to expand socialist democracy, to create a state based on the rule of law, and to improve the economic mechanism.

Meetings like this one are essential, the visitor said. They are made necessary by changes in the international arena—in the policy of European integration and in the potential for cooperation between West and East.

Answering a journalist's question on "Hungary's desire for neutrality," K. Grosz said that in his view the question will cease to exist once the problem of elimination of the two military-political blocs in Europe has been solved.

Concerning the question of the introduction of a multiparty system in Hungary, the leader of the Hungarian communists said it was discussed at today's meeting. I considered it necessary to convey the fact that we support this objective. The obvious diversity of interests in Hungary must be reflected in the birth of such a system. We want to continue building socialism in that context.

Naturally, political structure is a matter for each individual country. The established practice in the Soviet Union relates primarily to the Soviet people and the Soviet leadership. I want to stress that I have long believed that whether there is a one-party or multiparty system is not of the utmost importance to the implementation of democracy. The modern world shows that democracy can be absent in countries with a multiparty system.

At the request of Hungarian Television correspondents, K. Grosz gave an appraisal of the 1956 events in Hungary. It is the political duty of the Hungarian party to analyze the experience of the past 4 decades. And 1956 belongs to that period. It was a tragic moment in the history of the Hungarian nation. The Soviet leader and I discussed the international conditions that affected these events and exchanged opinions on how it came about that a student uprising turned into a counterrevolution. Years later we are able to look at many things more dispassionately. I can say that when it came to assessing crucial aspects, our opinions coincided. We also agreed to continue the joint study of the causes.

There are thousands of Hungarians living in the USSR, a Moscow Radio correspondent pointed out. He asked: How does Hungary view the Soviet Union's steps to develop the culture and traditions of the Transcarpathian Hungarian population.

The Hungarian public views with a sense of approval these measures, which are helping to preserve and develop Hungarians' ethnic values, the visitor said. This applies in particular to the creation of a Hungarian studies center in Uzhgorod. We would like to see this practice extended and enriched.

To a question about the development of cooperation between Hungary and the EEC, the Hungarian leader replied:

"At the moment, we have a functioning agreement that provides for contacts over the next 10 years. We expect the current restrictions to gradually disappear over that period and a mechanism to be set up that will make the development of even more effective cooperation possible. I think there is no possibility at the moment of Hungary seeking full membership in the Common Market, but we must move toward treaty-based relations with it. We feel that the EEC leadership is ready for a partnership."

Answers were given to other questions posed by media representatives.

Grosz 'Hard-Line' CEMA Stance Viewed

LD2403224189 Budapest Television Service in Hungarian 1830 GMT 24 Mar 89

[Interview with Karoly Grosz, general secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Worker's Party, by unidentified Budapest TV "Newsreel" reporter at the conclusion of Grosz' visit to the Soviet Union on 24 March; place of interview not given—recorded]

[Text] [Unidentified Budapest TV reporter] Very little time has passed since the press conference in which, on the basis of the experiences of past years, you adopted a most hard-line tone regarding CEMA cooperation.

No CEMA leader has ever made such a statement about the future of CEMA cooperation in Moscow. Is it the situation that is so difficult, or is it the Hungarian stand that is so hard?

[Grosz] Well, I do not know what is hard or what is soft because I only know my own stand, my own view. I have not listened to the view of others either at conferences or anywhere else. The situation justifies speaking frankly and openly and, on the other hand, the Hungarian position is unambiguous. The situation is that we have been talking for years—and I can speak only from my own personal experiences—about the need to develop CEMA, but meanwhile, CEMA is not developing. Well, in the near future—sometime in the summer, no date has yet been fixed—the general secretaries will meet; one of the agenda points of the meeting will be precisely CEMA. In other words, the means of improving CEMA must be very clearly stated. It is not declarations that are needed: The laws of economics will not operate just because we are making political statements. And therefore, we now think that CEMA must be built not from above, in the way we once thought, where we get together and agree on programs or principles. These are needed, but if there is no CEMA being built from below—in essence, if the development in the national economies does not take place, development that will make the socialist community into one capable of integration, into a united market—then nothing will ever come of it.

[Unidentified reporter] You said at the press conference that the political relationship between the Hungarian and Soviet parties is very dynamic and harmonious, but the same thing cannot be said of the economic relationship.

[Grosz] Yes, there is an apparent contradiction between the two, but in realtiy, it is not a contradiction, for the trend and character of political reforms are similar in very many respects. Naturally, in this regard, too, differences do exist. For example, the leaders of the CPSU do not consider the introduction of the multipaty system to be justified, while we have chosen this alternative.

[Unidentified reporter] Another question about the multiparty system. Concerning this issue, reaction in the Soviet Union has recently been extraordinarily sensitive where the issue concerns the Soviet Union itself. On the other hand, the multiparty system in Hungary has been a reality since January. Has this issue been raised in the course of the negotiations?

[Grosz] Naturally. They didn't need to ask; I told them myself. It is part of the internal political processes of Hungary, and I think had I not told them, they would have asked me about it. The Soviet leadership has received with extraordinary calmness and objectivity the reasoning with which I attempted to outline the thinking that led us to this decision. They understood it and at the same time clearly said that they judged that with regard to Soviet practice this was not a justified approach; they deem that the same political objectives could be achieved in the Soviet Union within a one-party system. However, Comrade Gorbachev also stated unambiguously that this was the private affair of every party, the internal affair of every country and people; they have not interfered hitherto nor will they do so in the future.

Grosz Says USSR Supports Foreign Policy

LD2503110289 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0900 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] The visit of Karoly Grosz, general secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party [MSZMP], has ended. On his way home from Moscow he gave an interview on board the aircraft to Hungarian journalists in which he rated highly the results of his visit and talks with Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev. Political links between the CPSU and MSZMP are developing dynamically and harmoniously, he remarked. The Soviet leaders rate highly and are supporting the foreign policy course of Hungary, Karoly Grosz said in the interview.

Grosz Says USSR Supportive on Reforms

LD2503175889 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 25 Mar 89

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Karoly Grosz, general secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party [MSZMP] Central Committee, gave an interview from aboard his plane on the way home from Moscow. In the interview he stressed that the talks with Comrade Gorbachev were characterized by an atmosphere of openness, sincerity, and constructiveness, and testified to complete mutual trust. The political links between the CPSU and the MSZMP are developing dynamically and harmoniously, the Hungarian leader said. The political reform trends in our countries are very similar, he said.

The Soviet leaders took an understanding view of the introduction of a multiparty system in Hungary. At the same time it was noted that these same political goals can be attained in the Soviet Union within the framework of the one-party system. At the talks in Moscow it was pointed out that resolving an issue of this kind is the internal matter of each party and each people.

USSR Ambassador to Bulgaria Views Ties, Reforms

AU2403201589 Sofia TRUD in Bulgarian 23 Mar 89 pp 1,2

[Interview with Viktor Sharapov, USSR ambassador to Bulgaria, by unidentified TRUD correspondent: "Restructuring Is the Common Fate of Our Peoples"—date, place of interview not given]

[Excerpts] TRUD: The reason for this interview was to review the current development of our cooperation with the USSR reflected in the Bulgarian-Soviet scientific-production associations that have been established and in the joint forms of our new economic cooperation. Naturally, this also includes our great interest in the restructuring process involving the USSR. [passage omitted]

Viktor Sharapov: It is a pleasure for me to visit the headquarters of your editorial board and once more feel like an acting journalist. Although I am a diplomat now, I must often speak and write as a journalist and I am still in love with this profession. Once you have caught the "disease" of journalism, you remain addicted to it all your life. [passage omitted]

TRUD: We share the same views, our two peoples are reliable friends and allies—this is how Viktor Sharapov described the new type of Soviet-Bulgarian cooperation, pointing out that the main policy today is related to economic issues and that the time of the spirit of enterprise, of initiative, and competitiveness has come.

Viktor Sharapov: Interesting processes are occurring in the economic sphere today—the new economic mechanism, the new principles of economic activity, and management are valid today. Both our peoples are searching for them. It is our present task to learn from each other's experience—both from its negative and positive aspects. Negative experience is useful because the same mistakes should not be repeated in other countries and places. As to positive experience, let us learn from it, and exchange it. [passage omitted]

TRUD: Is the convertible ruble with which we are operating within the CEMA framework sufficient to provide for everything necessary in restructuring the Bulgarian economy?

Viktor Sharapov: Numerous economists and experts say that in order to organize real cooperation we need a convertible currency, albeit a socialist one, or a convertible ruble that should be really convertible. All this is correct, but how should we reach this goal? Such a currency actually exists, but it does not function properly. Let us put all these concepts aside and say: The West has a convertible currency, but we have none, because a convertible ruble, or any other currency, can be convertible only if there is a market. The existence of a market is the first priority, and not visa-versa. If a market exists, convertible currency should also exist.

What should we do in this case? We should proceed from both ends and establish a wholesale market, then it will be easy to create a convertible ruble. We could start with a certain variety of goods, and then the market will extend to all commodities, but we cannot say: Give us a convertible currency, and we will establish a market. How can we provide for such currency if there is no market?

I think the economic reforms in both our countries are aimed at this one goal—namely, establishing such a market. [passage omitted].

TRUD: Some people in our country would like to work in Armenia on a voluntary basis and help restore the destroyed settlements. How could this be done without too many formalities, since the answer of the USSR Embassy was that they should wait a little while?

Viktor Sharapov: As a matter of fact, I know that numerous labor collectives in Bulgaria from various plants and factories have expressed their readiness to send their people to assist in the restoration work in Armenia. All this is still being postponed, because the final construction plans are not yet ready.

TRUD: One of the latest issues of MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI and OGONEK described an unusual case from the practical experience of the cooperatives, stating that a man had earned 3 million rubles from his work in a cooperative....

Viktor Sharapov: Let us pose the question in the following manner: Do we really need cooperatives, as a matter of principle? We have already admitted that they are necessary, that they can accomplish things that state enterprises are incapable of.

The other question is about incomes totalling into the millions. Is this correct, or incorrect? I think it is incorrect, because the incomes of cooperatives are subject to appropriate taxation, but the system of this taxation has not been clarified.

TRUD: What is Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev asking you, when you are discussing Bulgaria with him?

Viktor Sharapov: Naturally, he asks me how Bulgaria has changed since his last visit in the 1984-85 period. He is interested in the progress of restructuring in your country, and in the extent to which your restructuring is coinciding with ours. I answer him in the spirit of glasnost.

As a matter of fact, it would be incorrect to disregard the real, positive changes that have occurred in your country. However, it would also be incorrect to report that everything is perfect in your country and in ours. Both our countries have their positive experiences and we should learn from each other.

A basic coincidence in the goals and tasks of restructuring was pointed out in the documents signed by Mikhail Gorbachev and Todor Zhivkov during their Moscow meeting.

We are not in favor of each socialist country choosing its own path of development; the parties themselves should be responsible to their peoples. Greater independence also means greater responsibility toward the fraternal parties and peoples. This is how I see the situation, and this is how I am reporting to the Soviet leadership about Bulgaria.

Last, but not least, I wish all of you and the Bulgarian people success in your progress toward restructuring, which is our common destiny.

Latin America & Caribbean

Nicaraguan Foreign Cooperation Minister Visits

Arrives 23 Mar

LD2303152689 Moscow TASS in English 1520 GMT 23 Mar 89

[Text] Moscow March 23 TASS—On Thursday Henry Ruiz Hernandez, member of the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] National Leadership and Nicaraguan minister of foreign cooperation, arrived in the Soviet Union on a short working visit.

Meets Shevardnadze

LD2503193789 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Mar 89 Second Edition p 4

[Text] Moscow, 24 Mar—Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of foreign affairs, on 24 March received Henry Ruiz, a member of the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] National Directorate and minister of foreign cooperation of the Republic of Nicaragua, who has arrived on a short working visit in the Soviet Union. During a long conversation which passed in a warm, friendly atmosphere, certain matters of Soviet-Nicaraguan relations were discussed along with international and regional problems of mutual interest.

Attention mainly focused on ways of breaking the deadlock in the crisis situation in Central America. Henry Ruiz dwelled on the content of the agreements which were reached during the latest meeting of the presidents of the countries of the region, which took place in February of this year. He detailed the practical steps which are being taken by the Sandinist leadership in the international arena and within the country to meticulously comply with these agreements. In particular, the FSLN leadership actively supports the initiative of the Central American countries to create, under UN aegis, an international mechanism to verify the implementation of the commitments on security contained in the Guatemala agreement. It is conducting talks with Honduras about the development by mid-May of 1989 of a plan for the voluntary demobilization, repatriation, or relocation of the contras to Nicaragua or third countries. On several occasions, Nicaragua has declared its readiness to renew a dialogue with the United States.

The Nicaraguan Government has also announced that general elections will be held ahead of schedule, in February 1990, under international and regional control; it has resumed the dialogue with the opposition, implemented an amnesty, and is planning other measures to liberalize internal political life and to promote national accord. Decisions to cut the Army and reduce defense expenditure also act in the same direction.

Eduard Shevardnadze commented that the course being followed by the Nicaraguan Government in foreign and domestic affairs is an example of an original, innovative approach which fully accords with the spirit of the new political thinking and with modern progressive tendencies in international policy and which substantially contributes a just political settlement in Central America. This course is in line with the goal of national reconciliation and democratization of life in that country, and accords with the general democratic line on human rights.

The Soviet Union expressed full support for Nicaragua's constructive steps and for the activity of other Central American states aimed at resolving the situation of conflict in the region and establishing good-neighborly relations among them. It was emphasized that now, when fairly encouraging prospects are taking shape in Central America as a whole, the Soviet Union will continue actively to promote improvement of the situation in this region of the world. The USSR calls upon all other members of the international community, especially nonregional states which are in one way or another involved in the conflict, to do the same.

The sides expressed the conviction that the negotiation mechanism in the framework of the Guatemala agreement signed in August 1987 serves in present conditions as the most effective way to a political settlement of the crisis situation in the region. In this connection, they noted the need to maintain the dynamics of its development and to supplement the existing accords with new steps and initiatives to resolve those far-from-simple problems that are plaguing relations among the countries of Central America and hindering the traditional and objective integrational trends.

Emphasis was placed on the special importance at this time of strengthening the spirit of mutual restraint and trust among the states of the region, and of observing the principles of freedom of choice, a reasonable balance of interest, and noninterference.

There was also discussion of what further steps might be taken to promote the establishment of peace in Central America. They agreed to continue mutual consultations and the exchange of views on matters connected with the interaction of the Soviet Union and Nicaragua on the international scene in the cause of a Central American settlement.

Leaves Moscow After Visit

LD2503075789 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0741 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] Moscow, 25 Mar (TASS)—On Friday [24 March], Henry Ruiz Hernandez, member of the national leadership of the Sandinist National Liberation Party and minister for foreign cooperation of Nicaragua, who was in our country on a short working visit, left Moscow.

At the airport the guest was seen off by Viktor Komplektov, deputy USSR foreign minister; and Andrey Urnov, deputy head of the international department of the CPSU Central Committee.

Among those who saw him off was Ernesto Jose Castillo Martinez, Nicaraguan ambassador to the USSR.

Nicaraguan Issues Statement on U.S. Contra Aid

LD2503120489 Moscow TASS in English 1145 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] Managua March 25 TASS—By TASS Correspondent Andrey Kurguzov:

The Sandinista government issued a statement on Friday [24 March] in view of the accord reached between the U.S. Administration and U.S. Congress leadership on a continuation of the so-called humanitarian aid to the Nicaraguan contras.

The decision by representatives of the Republican and Democratic Parties on the allocation of new financial appropriations to the contras runs counter to the accords reached in El Salvador by the presidents of Central

American countries to dismantle the contra force, said the statement which was read out by Manuel Espinoza, Nicaraguan minister of information, at a news conference in Managua.

The Nicaraguan Government urged the Bush administration to pursue a policy corresponding to the norms of international law with regard to the republic, to abandon threats and the use of force, to respect the Nicaraguan people's right to self-determination and independence, and to start a process of normalizing bilateral relations.

The United States will soon have an opportunity to prove its striving for peace in Central America in deeds, not words, the statement pointed out. The USA should help create an international peacekeeping force under U.N. auspices to ensure control over the implementation of the El Salvador pact, as well as to support the process of international control on the part of the UNO [United Nations] and the Organization of the American States over Nicaraguan general elections scheduled for February next year.

Any attempts at blocking or hindering these actions will show that the United States does not observe the International Court ruling, tramples on the norms of international law and on compromises achieved by Central American countries for a peaceful settlement, the statement emphasised.

Espinoza said that the Nicaraguan Government, for its part, would continue to work for an end to the war and for the attainment of peace and to abide by the obligations assumed at the meetings in El Salvador and Guatemala.

Political & Social

Results of 26 Mar Territorial District Elections

Commission Begins Receiving Results

LD2603194989 Moscow TASS in English 2043 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] Moscow March 26 TASS—By TASS Correspondent Valeriy Kiosa:

The Central Election Commission has received the first results of voting in constituencies.

The first telegrams with preliminary returns arrived from the Soviet Far East, where ballots had been cast while it was still early morning in Moscow.

The first official protocols with election results are expected however to arrive from constituencies situated in Moscow and its suburbs.

The commission is ready to receive and process ballot returns from 1,500 Soviet constituencies.

The Central Commission can easily communicate with any of the election commissions in various constituencies.

An authorised-personnel-only room equipped with necessary hardware has been allocated for a special team that has begun counting votes.

The Central Election Commission will be working round-the-clock in the next few days as election results from constituencies across the vast Soviet territory are expected to arrive here day and night.

The procedure of bringing ballot protocols to the Moscow's headquarters has been detailed with several transport ministries.

Under the new electoral law, the Central Election Commission has ten days to sum up election results from all Soviet constituencies.

Returns in individual constituencies are expected to appear in local media before March 28.

AFP on High Election Turnout

AU2603163289 Paris AFP in English 1607 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Moscow, March 26 (AFP)—Moscow's ousted party chief Boris Yeltsin was set for a startling comeback in his old fief as Soviet voters flocked to the polls Sunday in the first multi-candidate elections for 70 years.

Turnout was reportedly high in the vote to elect 1,500 deputies to the revamped parliament, the new Congress of People's Deputies, seen as the showcase of the Soviet leadership's political reforms.

In the Armenian capital Yerevan, however, some 3,000 Armenian nationalists calling for an election boycott took to the streets in an hour-long protest.

In Moscow, where according to unofficial reports turnout averaged 75 per cent, Mr. Yeltsin, the Communist Party maverick, was poised for a crushing victory over his rival for a special all-Moscow seat in the congress.

Turnout in outlying republics such as the Baltic states was about 70 per cent, unofficial reports said.

The reforms aim to give real power to a permanently-sitting legislature, taken from among the congress members, which is to replace the former rubber-stamp Supreme Soviet.

Although the Communist Party will retain its absolute majority in congress, as 85 per cent of the candidates were party members, the 184 million voters were offered a choice on Sunday for the first time in almost 70 years.

As members of the ruling Politburo made their way to Moscow polling stations in drizzle, which turned to steady rain in the afternoon, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev admitted that the complex new electoral system was imperfect and "needs some work". [passage omitted]

Top leaders were not standing for election in the direct vote as the party's 100 deputies were elected by the Central Committee last week. The party is included among "public organisations" whose 750 reserved seats in the Congress are elected in a separate process. [passage omitted]

Mr. Yeltsin, whose candidacy has been blocked by his successors in the Moscow party apparatus, condemned his critics who accused him of being "against the party". He is currently being investigated by the Central Committee after being accused of advocating a multi-party system.

"I am against the party apparatus, not against the party," he stressed.

Mr. Yeltsin's election team, holed up at his electoral headquarters, issued the first unofficial results from a special polling station of 350 soldiers in Moscow, which produced a massive win for Mr. Yeltsin, with only 29 votes for his rival.

According to a poll of Moscow voters by the foreign press corps, out of a total 2,238 voters questioned after they cast their votes, 1,812 supported Mr. Yeltsin, 164 backed Mr. Brakov, and 336 refused to answer. Twenty-six people said they crossed out both candidates on the blue ballot sheet.

Moscow has a total 6.7 million voters. [passage omitted]

Preliminary Regional, District Results

LD2703160989 Moscow TASS in English 1545 GMT 27 Mar 89

[Text] Moscow March 27 TASS—By TASS correspondents: The final, official results of the elections of people's deputies of the USSR held on Sunday are still to be announced. But district electoral committees have received the first ballot returns which make it possible to speak about preliminary outcomes.

"The Soviet man is the prime mover of perestroyka", Mikhail Gorbachev said in a talk with journalists on Sunday. One can state today that the Soviet man had his say at the elections, which is evidenced by a high voter turnout. And although not everybody likes the outcome of the elections, nothing can be done here—this is the word of the master of the country.

In Leningrad, for instance, the defeat at the election of Anatoliy Gerasimov, secretary of the Leningrad City Committee of the CPSU, who earned only 15 per cent of the popular vote, appeared to take many by surprise. His rival Yuriy Boldyrev, a ship-building engineer, gained over 74 percent of the vote.

Preliminary returns of the elections of people's deputies of the USSR in Baltic republics also became known. In Lithuania, the elections were held in 42 regional constituencies. Not less than two candidates stood election in all of them. The total number of those contesting for a seat in the new parliament was 132. Thirty three constituencies elected their people's deputies in the first round. Among the elected are Algirdas Brazauskas, first secretary of the Lithuanian Communist party Central Committee; and Vladimir Berezov, the party second secretary. Vitautas Astrauskas, president of the Presidium of the Lithuanian Supreme Soviet; Vitautas Sakalauskas, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the republic; and several other party leaders and local government officials were not elected.

The preliminary results of the balloting came from Dushanbe, capital of the Central Asian republic of Tajikistan. Kakhar Makhkamov, first secretary of the Tajik Communist Party Central Committee, and Kurbonali Oripov, a worker of the local reinforced concrete structures plant, stood election in the Dushanbe regional constituency. Kakhar Makhkamov won 65 percent of the votes and became a people's deputy of the USSR.

Forty seven candidates were elected people's deputies of the USSR in the Soviet Republic of Belorussia, according to preliminary estimates. Among them are workers, engineers, scientists, lawyers, party functionaries and local government officials, managers of plants, senior executives of ministries and departments, said Lyudmila Syroyegina, secretary of the presidium of the Supreme Soviet of Belorussia, who heads the commission.

"It is already clear that repeated elections will be held in ten constituencies where none of the candidates gained over 50 percent of the votes. A second round of elections will be held in three constituencies", she said.

Checks on Electoral Process Outlined

PM2603134189 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Mar 89 Morning Edition p 2

[Interview with A. Lukyanchikov, chief of the Moscow city soviet executive committee Work of Soviets Department, by Correspondent V. Shchepotkin under the rubric "From Competent Sources": "Moscow Gorispolkom Explains Further...."; date and place of interview not given; first two paragraphs are an introduction]

[Text] It is a matter of hours before the start of the elections of USSR people's deputies. But there have been many questions today, particularly of a procedural nature.

IZVESTIYA correspondent V. Shchepotkin asked A. Lukyanchikov, chief of the Moscow gorispolkom [city soviet executive committee] Work of Soviets Department, to answer some of them.

[Shchepotkin] In the 25 March issue of MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA, in an article entitled "Complete Readiness," you talk, Aleksandr Vasilyevich, about the possibility of representatives of labor collectives, public organizations, and the press being present at polling places on election day. Although what you were talking about was their being present during the count. This prompted some calls to IZVESTIYA. Muscovites are asking: Is it possible for the aforementioned persons to be present at all other stages of the electoral process?

[Lukyanchikov] It is possible, yes. According to the Central Electoral Commission's instructions, representatives of the public, not to mention agents, can be present at the polling place from the moment the ballot boxes are sealed to the moment the votes have been counted. But they must observe the established procedure. That is, representatives of the public can only be present at the polling place to which they have been delegated by collectives or sent by an okrug commission. The ward commission decides the number of representatives. There should be as many as will not hinder the ward commission's work.

[Shchepotkin] Not just one or two people, though?

[Lukyanchikov] No. But not a crowd of them either. What we are talking about is a reasonable number.

[Shchepotkin] Another question: What is the counting procedure and how do the results get to the okrug commissions?

[Lukyanchikov] After voting has ended, the ballot papers will be counted there and then by the ward electoral commission. I repeat that members of the public and the press are allowed to be present while this is going on. Then the ward commission draws up, before their very eyes, so to speak, a protocol on the results of the voting, and the ballot papers are sealed and stored away. They, along with lists of results, are kept for the duration of the convocation, that is, for 5 years. And no one is authorized to touch them any more, unless, of course, some dispute arises.

[Shchepotkin] And where do the protocols go?

[Lukyanchikov] They will be taken from the polling place to the okrug commissions. There, in the presence of the ward commissions' chairmen and representatives of the public and the press, they will be checked to ensure that they have been filled in correctly. That is, that the established procedure for drawing up this vital election document has been observed.

[Shchepotkin] This will not be a recount of the votes, which is what some voters fear?

[Lukyanchikov] Not at all.

[Shchepotkin] Where will the protocols on the results in the Moscow City National Territorial Okrug No 1 [in which Yeltsin is a candidate] go?

[Lukyanchikov] Before answering that question I must say that there are nearly 3,400 polling places in Moscow. The protocols are accompanied, as a rule, by several people. Can you imagine the situation in Sovetskaya Square, near the Moscow City Soviet, if they were all to arrive at once? So the rayon soviet executive committees will serve as venues for a preliminary check of the protocols. Then the documents will be taken to the electoral commission of Moscow City National Territorial Okrug No 1 for the final check.

[Shchepotkin] Will representatives of labor collectives, the public, and the press be able to be present at all the checks?

[Lukyanchikov] They will. But the usual conditions apply. First, they will require documents authorizing them to be present. Second: You can appreciate that it will simply not be possible for all those who want to attend to be present. The commissions have to have normal working conditions on this very busy day.

Election Chairman on Vote Count

LD2703142189 Moscow World Service in English 1110 GMT 27 Mar 89

[Text] [Announcer] The Soviet Union went to the polls on Sunday to elect delegates to a new national legislative body, the Congress of People's Deputies. Public organizations and the Communist Party, which will have a representation quota of 750 seats, held their elections earlier. The central electoral commission is reviewing the results of Sunday's voting in the constituencies. Radio Moscow's reporter has put several questions to the Electoral Commission Chairman Vladimir Orlov.

The first question was: That was the first election to be held under the new election law, what impression does Vladimir Orlov have of the election campaign and the voting?

[Orlov in Russian, fading into superimposed English] We have had one of the most dramatic election campaigns ever since the emergence of the soviet government. It was rather controversial, too. All of the phases of the election campaign are evidence of this. I would say that what makes this election so unique is that the nation has been expanding its political experience and the understanding of democracy. Society's economic, social, and intellectual life are undergoing fundamental renewal. The elections we have had are unparalleled in the past. The political activity of the electorate is great indeed, and this is a crucial element to the picture of perestroyka and its progress. I believe that the new electoral law did work; it has stirred the people into political action and made them feel that they are in a commanding position. Social apathy is coming to an end. These are the main results of the new election campaign.

The second question was: Public organizations held their elections earlier. What were their results?

[Orlov] As you may remember, the electoral law says that public organizations are entitled to 750 seats in the future legislature. At this point, elections have been held in most public organizations and 732 delegates were elected. The vacancies that remain are going to be filled within the next month after by-elections in those public organizations that have failed to distribute all the mandates. The Academy of Sciences still has 12 vacancies, the Soviet Peace Fund 2, the Soviet Artists Union 2, the Cinema Devotees Society 1, and the Academy of Pedagogical Sciences 1.

And what is the Central Electoral Commission supposed to do now? Chairman Vladimir Orlov:

[Orlov in Russian fading into superimposed English] Our main job will be to sum up the results of the elections. Electoral commissions in the constituencies must send in early returns within a 24-hour deadline, and within 5 days they will present vote counting protocols. We shall publish the list of the elected deputies on the 5th or the 6th April.

TASS Explains Vote Counting

LD2503172389 Moscow TASS in English 1713 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] Moscow March 25 TASS—Elections of Soviet people's deputies from territorial and national-territorial constituencies are to be held in the Soviet Union on March 26. Polling stations will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. local time.

Preparations for the elections were held in accordance with the new election law, passed late last year. The law specifies the procedure of the March 26th polling.

The law also regulates the election commission's activities when the polling ends. First, all unused ballot forms must be counted and cancelled, and then ballot boxes can be opened in the presence of all commission members, and the count of votes will begin.

The Central Election Commission for Elections of Soviet People's Deputies explained that public and press representatives can be present as observers at the count of votes. The results of the vote count are put down in a protocol signed by the chairman of all members of the divisional election comission. The protocol is handed over to the district election commission which counts, using the protocols of the divisional polling stations of the district, the total ballot cast for that or other candidate, and determines the winner.

The candidate who collects more than half of the votes cast shall be considered elected, according to the law.

The election law provides for polling or even election run-offs. If more than two candidates ran in a constituency and none of them collected more than half of the votes, which is necessary for one to be elected, a run-off vote is taken on the two candidates who collected the biggest ballot.

If two candidates ran in the constituency and none of them was elected, or if elections were considered invalid for some reason, there could be a run-off election in accordance with the election law requirements, not later than two months after the general elections of Soviet people's deputies.

According to the law, the Central Election Commission shall publish the list of all elected Soviet people's deputies not later than ten days after the election day. District election commissions can report the election returns in their districts even earlier.

PRAVDA Election Day Editorial

PM2603145789 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Mar 89 Second Edition p 1

[Editorial: "Let Us Perform Our Civic Duty by Participating in the Elections"]

[Text] Today we head for the polling places. We go to perform our civic duty, to participate in the election of USSR people's deputies. The road is familiar to many people in the residential area or village and the polling place looks outwardly the same as it has in previous elections to the country's supreme organ of power. Everything is seemingly as before, as on many past occasions, but with one vital difference: We are different. The elections are different, too. So the performance of our civic duty has special, historic meaning today.

In fact, the elections have been taking place since 11 March. For the first time in our political practice one-third of the deputies' seats go to public organizations representing the broadest strata of working people. The CPSU and members of creative unions, the Komsomol [All-Union Leninist Communist Youth League], and the USSR Academy of Sciences will have their emissaries in parliament.... The public organizations' elections took place in the midst of what can be described as passionate debate. And let us not be discomfited by the fact that in the case of some public organizations several seats remain vacant and repeat elections are needed. This is perfectly within the law.

Those who have already gained the right to call themselves USSR people's deputies include people of note whose names are well known in the country and in the world. Writer Vasil Bykov, machine operator Mikhail Klepikov, Academician Yevgeniy Velikhov, actor Kirill Lavrov.... Today we will name another 1,500 of our worthiest citizens.

We have never known elections like these before. But, having embarked on the path of revolutionary restructuring, society had to arrive at free, alternative elections of soviets, that foundation of socialist people's power, because, in the true Leninist way of thinking, the power of the soviets means the power of the people. For decades this truth was generally interpreted as a slogan, although it should be the main key to the state's whole policy, which does not allow a closed administrative bureaucracy and does not alienate human beings and citizens from the running of the country's affairs.

The present elections will rightly be called a high point in social development. Was it not drastic to begin the political reform with elections to the supreme organ of power? This question is constantly encountered in letters to the editor. Indeed, the election campaign has contained more passion and quite contradictory situations than all previous elections taken together. But who can guarantee that the ascent to democratic forms of free expression and the political creativity of the masses will be an entirely smooth process? You have to feel your way along untrodden paths and all stages of the election campaign have demonstrated that the mastering of democracy is absolutely vital for restructuring and for releasing society's creative potential.

Our destiny is in our hands and much in it depends on our choice today. We are not just electing people's deputies from several candidates, but, in voting, we are above all maintaining the atmosphere of renewal and the spirit of innovation and quest which dates back to April 1985. There has already been frank discussion of past errors, current difficulties, and future problems. But in order to progress toward the objectives confidently and with our heads held high we need a new mechanism for exercising power, starting with the supreme organ. It is for us to decide what it will be. For henceforth the form of power must express the interests of the state not at the expense of the people's interests. We are the state.

"Duty as a citizen...." These words are very relevant today. And one should not play down the the importance of turning up at the polling place, because the present elections are fatefully linked to the future. It is our duty to elect a body of deputies which will personify the power of the people not by routinely raising a "forest of hands," but by asserting democratic principles in all spheres of our life. And there is much work to be done here, and we must roll up our sleeves, so to speak, not just go through the motions. Our vote today will determine how able and independent the country's supreme organs of power will be, the extent to which future laws will correspond to the dynamics of restructuring, and how close the running of the state will be to us and our interests and aspirations. So, in leaving one candidate's name on the ballot paper, let us try to choose the worthiest politician.

Two-thirds of the deputies for whom we will be voting today are still reeling from the impression of the election campaign activity, debates, and polemics. The instructions to them are: When in the halls of the Kremlin to retain that feeling of dependence on our votes and, consequently, on the people's interests. And it is within our power, as the electorate, to be more exacting in reminding deputies of the trust placed in them and of the responsibilities they have taken on.

Having shaken off apathy and passivity to decide the future of the state, let us remember unity. We will be voting today for a variety of candidates, we will be choosing from alternatives, opting for this position or that. But we must do this together, in a united expression of will, by going to the polling places. We are all interdependent as citizens of this world, but it is the solemn act of electing the supreme organ of state power that unites us as a people. The power of the people will find a real expression today, and, in performing our electoral duty we can consider that we have learned another lesson in the mastery of democracy.

Deputies who get the people's mandate assume a major state responsibility in tackling the crucial social tasks of restructuring. This involves, above all, improving and renewing our economy. Strengthening our society's international unity on a new, more democratic foundation and creating harmony in interethnic relations and Soviet people's socialist fraternity. Establishing the principles of social justice in laws and in hearts, for the sake of the material and spiritual well-being of the individual and the state. It involves an innovative approach to the key problems of international life.

Today many people will be voting for the first time in their lives. May they also remember this day as the first citizens of the country to perform their duty as a democratic right. But we are all voting today for the first time in a new way. Indeed, with a sense of lofty civic duty.

May the elections of USSR people's deputies be an education in democracy and a triumph for the sovereignty of the people!

Runoff Election Procedures Viewed

LD2703121889 Moscow TASS in English 1210 GMT 27 Mar 89

[Text] Moscow March 27 TASS—By TASS Correspondent Valeriy Kiosa:

The election of USSR people's deputies on Sunday was the climax of a period of unprecedented political activity in the Soviet Union.

It must be recalled that 1,500 seats were contested by 2,895 candidates. Another 750 deputies will for the first time represent public organisations in the country's top state power body.

Under the provisions of the electoral law adopted at the end of last year, the Central Electoral Commission is to issue election results throughout the Soviet Union within ten days. The results of voting in the districts are expected to be published in the local press not later than Tuesday.

However, it may well happen that in a number of districts the names of deputies will not be given for the simple reason that none of the candidates managed to poll the necessary majority of votes. This is all the more likely as there are districts where four, five, six and more people contested a single seat. What should be done in such cases?

The electoral law made provision for such a contingency. If more than two candidates contested seats in an electoral district and none of them polled more than a half of votes cast by people taking part in the polling, a repeated vote on two candidates who polled the largest number of votes shall be held in that district within two weeks. A decision to this effect shall be taken by the District Electoral Commission.

If there were not more than two candidates in a district and none of them was elected, then another poll shall be held in that district on an instruction from the Central Electoral Commission. The law assigns a period of two months for that.

In that case a new registration of candidates and other measures will be taken in accordance with the electoral law. The same procedure is envisaged in those cases when a repeated particular district are declared invalid.

Elections End 'Political Slumber'

LD2603082289 Moscow TASS in English 0743 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] Moscow March 26 TASS—By TASS news analyst Igor Yefimov:

The adult population of the Soviet Union go to the polls on Sunday to elect a supreme state power body of the country—a Congress of the USSR People's Deputies. To an absolute majority of people these are the first elections proper, and not just voting for the sole candidate, as previously was the case.

The new electoral law, born of perestroyka and adopted at the end of 1988, made the elections really democratic. Putting it in short, the law is based on two main provisions: the population's real participation in all stages of the election campaign and the competitiveness of candidacies. Today's polling takes place according to the principle: one electoral district—one seat. At present 2,895 candidates are contesting 1,500 seats in the supreme state power body. And although inertia still manifested itself in some places (there is one candidate in approximately 380 districts), on the whole competition is keen: There are districts where 10-12 candidates contest one seat.

The distinguishing feature of the elections in the Soviet Union is that each constituent, figuratively speaking, votes 'twice' as a citizen of the USSR in a territorial district and a citizen of his or her republic (there are 15 union republics in the USSR) in a national territorial district. Everyone is given two ballot papers respectively and, or course, with different candidates.

Since there are autonomous republics, regions, and national districts in some union republics, the constituents who live there are given a third ballot paper with the names of candidates who if elected will represent the respective autonomous administrative units in the top power body.

Yet another peculiarity of the Soviet election system must be mentioned. The Soviet Union's top power body, along with 1,500 people to be elected today, will have another 750 deputies—people who represent the interests of the main public organizations of the country. These organizations have already elected deputies at their congresses, conferences and plenary meetings which were held in the past two weeks. To tell the truth, several organizations are to have another round of voting due to the fact that not all candidates polled the needed number of votes.

Today's polling will continue for one day or, to be more exact, from seven a.m. to eight p.m., local time, in territorial and national territorial districts. Those who will poll more than a half of votes of people taking part in the voting will be reckoned elected. Not everyone apparently will manage to do that in the first round. A repeated voting is to be held not later than within two weeks.

Election returns will become known later but the chief outcome of the election campaign can be summed up already now. Life has shown that the electoral law serves its purpose well. Despite some unevennesses, it has done an important thing: It awakened the population from a long political slumber.

TASS Reports End of Elections

LD2703043389 Moscow TASS in English 0428 GMT 27 Mar 89

[Text] Moscow March 26 TASS—Elections to the supreme body of state authority—the Congress of USSR People's Deputies—were held in the Soviet Union on Sunday. USSR people's deputies in territories and national-territorial election districts have been elected. Aside from 1,500 deputies elected yesterday, the supreme body of state authority will include 750 deputies—people representing the interests of main public organisations of the country. They had been elected at congresses, conferences and plenums of these organisations over the past fortnight.

As many as 2,895 candidates competed for 1,500 seats on Sunday. There were two candidates for one seat in 953 districts, and there were from three to 12 candidates for one seat in 163 districts. In 384 election districts there was one candidate on the ballot. Polling stations were open from seven a.m. to eight p.m. local time. Then the counting of the votes was started.

After the voting Mikhail Gorbachev talked to Soviet and foreign reporters. He described the new-style Soviet election campaign as a "big stride in democratising society". Gorbachev added that the new election code makes it possible to form a new state legislature that "would be capable of fulfilling the very difficult, uphill, innovative task of perestroyka".

The law on election gives the commission ten days to sum up the election returns for the whole of the Soviet Union.

Gorbachev Chats With Newsmen After Voting 26 Mar

PM2703130589 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 Mar 89 Second Edition p 1

[TASS report: "M.S. Gorbachev: The 1989 Elections Are Taking Us a Long Way Forward"]

[Text] Polling place No 11/1954 of the capital's Oktyabrskiy Rayon was located in one of the buildings of the USSR Academy of Sciences Chemical Physics Institute. M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, cast his vote here 26 March.

Immediately after voting M.S. Gorbachev had a conversation with Soviet and foreign correspondents. He talked above all about the significance and special features of the current election campaign and its place in the reform of the political system of Soviet society.

Journalists inquired about M.S. Gorbachev's opinion on certain questions discussed at election meetings, in particular, concerning political pluralism.

M.S. Gorbachev: I have already expressed my views on this score. I think that the existence of any particular number of parties does not solve the problem. You can see that for yourselves by looking at world experience. Democracy and glasnost are the key to uncovering the potential of our socialist society, revealing people's multifaceted interests, and harmonizing them.

That is why we intend to advance the process of democratization, which will encompass the economic, political, and cultural spheres. That is the main thing. We will not back down on this but will, to the contrary, reveal our system's potential. We have vast potential.

Question: How do you view the present election system?

M.S. Gorbachev: If you set about assessing this election campaign from the viewpoint of grand political criteria and from the viewpoint of that certain measure of experience that we have acquired, I think that the election law has indeed justified our hopes. It has activated people's political thought and social activeness. That is the most important thing that we wanted to achieve. Moreover, this has been manifested at the very first stage of the application of the law although we knew that the new law was still imperfect and that we would have to work on it after seeing it in action. I repeat: This election campaign in itself signifies a great advance in the process of the democratization of society, in the main area, moreover, in the context of power. Second: The new election law indeed makes it possible to shape the kind of Supreme Soviet that will be capable of resolving the most important, difficult, and innovative tasks of restructuring.

Voice: Many okrugs have only one candidate....

M.S. Gorbachev: As is well known, this does not contravene the election law. But I am in favor of competitiveness, a contest at all stages.

Voice: What about the 100 candidates for 100 mandates from the CPSU?

M.S. Gorbachev: Let me mention here that there were 30,500 contenders when the nominations from the CPSU began. Then this process started in the primary party organizations. The plenum decided to act in this way—that does not contravene the law either.

Question: Will there be rotation of deputies in the new Soviet parliament or will the same people work for the entire 5 years?

M.S. Gorbachev: There will be rotation. That is a sign of democracy. All 2,250 deputies will have a turn at working in the Supreme Soviet. That is very important.

Question: Mikhail Sergeyevich, from the viewpoint of the concept of pluralism, how are we to regard the criticism of Yeltsin that we have heard over the last few days?

M.S. Gorbachev: It was not only Comrade Yeltsin who was criticized during the election campaign. But also the past, the present, and our actions during the years of restructuring were criticized, so he does not have "priority" in this area.

It is good that the activity of both the incumbent leadership and state organs is also being assessed. That is how it should be. Why should some of us be beyond criticism and control?

Journalists asked M.S. Gorbachev to share his impressions of the diversity of candidate deputies' election platforms.

M.S. Gorbachev: I think that the people whom our working people—the voters—nominated as candidates have done a very great deal to ponder their standpoint and present it to society and to the voters. I welcome this. This means that people have for the first time been able to familiarize themselves with a candidate deputy's civic and moral stance. Are the candidates' programs free from shortcomings? I think that they themselves are aware that these programs contain many illusions. But when these platforms and interests come together in the Supreme Soviet and when they start to be compared it will ultimately be possible to find the correct solution.

Question: Someone said something very interesting to the effect that the current elections are knocking the political immaturity out of us. Do you agree with that?

M.S. Gorbachev: I have already say that I have a very high opinion of the current election campaign. It is taking us a long way forward.

Question: For whom did you vote?

M.S. Gorbachev: For the candidates who were nominated.

Question: Be specific, for Yeltsin or Brakov?

M.S. Gorbachev: Allow me to remind you that this was a secret ballot.

Question: At the press conference after the plenum Ye.K. Ligachev said that there was complete unanimity within the CPSU leadership. Yet it transpires that more than 10 percent of the voters at the plenum voted against him and almost 10 percent against A.N. Yakovlev. What is your view on that?

M.S. Gorbachev: I believe that Yegor Kuzmich was on the whole correct. He said that in the Politburo as in all society there are debates on all questions.

That is the case. I can attest to that since I chair Politburo sessions and do my utmost to stimulate these debates since it is a question of elaborating a policy that the people and our society need in order to extricate us from the state in which we have found ourselves and blaze a broad trail for socialist development and socialist renewal. We must improve socialism, reveal its potential, and advance the process of democracy. The Politburo is united on this.

Question: What does the fact that it was these two candidates—Yakovlev and Ligachev—who received the largest number of votes against them prove?

M.S. Gorbachev: That indicates that people vote as they see fit.

Question: What is your view of the fact that 12 people voted against you at the March plenum?

M.S. Gorbachev: That's not enough! I would have been disappointed if there were no critical comments. Because I feel that not everything is going as I would like and at the pace that we envisaged. But these difficult and complicated matters are actually moving. And we should not permit stupid things to happen, great leaps or sudden rushes, because we cannot jeopardize the people's future. If we are capable of learning and deriving lessons from history then we should act as we are acting, but I think we should act more energetically in some areas.

Question: It is well known why people are voting—they are voting for restructuring. It is well known what people are voting against—they are voting against stagnation. But what could you say to people who won't vote at all today, and who won't exercise their right to vote? For there will be such people....

M.S. Gorbachev: I would say the following: That is ultimately their right. In this respect me must note that our democracy rests firmly on a legal basis. I believe that no one will tug them by the arm. That is their civic stance. But I would invite them to take part in the voting since great and crucial problems are at stake in the course of this election campaign. I would ask them to express their views in support of people who are energetically advocating restructuring and people who will represent our society in the Supreme Soviet, resolve questions, help restructuring advance, and help implement our hopes and aspirations.

Voice: Many of us would have liked to have seen you with your family today.

M.S. Gorbachev: Yes, you know, I read a review of letters on this subject in IZVESTIYA yesterday. I thought that it is not the done thing in our country to go in for self-advertisement. One should prove one's worth through one's actions.

M.S. Gorbachev said the following in conclusion: If you approach the current election and the election campaign as a whole with rigorous criteria, you can say that it constitutes great progress in the processes of democratization. Despite all the flaws, the upheaval, and, possibly, the somewhat imperfect nature of the new election law, Soviet people people of different generations have never shown such interest and such thought. This is very important, because restructuring will become a reality when people everywhere join in—at enterprises, construction sites, educational establishments, institutes, schools, and medical establishments—and when all working people take an active part. That is the main thing. No campaign from above and no action groups, however clamorous they are, can resolve the country's future. Soviet man is the main protagonist in restructuring. That is why should involve our man, and give him a real chance to form opinions on everything and make decisions using the potential of democracy, glasnost, and the reforms, including economic reform. Then restructuring will become a reality, and we will have guarantees that there will be no repetition of what we have had to live through. We must stick firmly to our course. We will stand our ground. I believe in our people.

TV Shows Gorbachev, Ryzhkov Voting

LD2603131189

[Editorial Report] Moscow Television Service in Russian at 1115 GMT on 26 March carries a 10-minute "Election Special" presented by Leonid Elin. After a brief introduction of the elections, Elin turns the program over to Moscow Polling Station No 11/19-54 in Oktyabrskiy Rayon and unidentified correspondent who says: "Moscow polling station No 11/19-54, Oktyabrskiy Rayon, for the elections for USSR people's deputies. Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev and Raisa Maksimovna Gorbacheva cast their vote here today."

Gorbachev is seen walking into the polling station and shaking hands with an unidentified official.

"[Gorbachev] Good day.

"[Unidentified official] Welcome, Mikhail Sergeyevich, to our polling station, I'm very glad to see you.

"[Gorbachev] You're the chairman of the commission, right?

"[Official] Yes, chairman of the electoral commission. [video shows official turning to Raisa Gorbacheva and shaking her hand] I'm glad to see you, congratulations on the holiday.

"[Gorbachev] Well, how are things going?

"[Official] The voting is going very well here [passage indistinct]

"[Gorbachev] Already about 70 percent? Good, that's good, too, taking into account the election campaign, the voting's good. [video shows Gorbachev, Raisa, and the official sitting down]

"Do we show our passports, or what?" [passage indistinct] [video shows Gorbachev and Raisa receiving ballots]

"The rest is up to us, is it?

"[Official] Of course, thank you very much and all the best. [laughter]"

Gorbachev is then shown emerging from behind the curtain and a booth and putting his ballot in the box. The reporter says: "Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev greeted the assembled journalists." Gorbachev's words however are obscured except for the phrase "I didn't rush it." Raisa Gorbacheva is shown emerging and putting her ballot in the box.

The correspondent then says: "Moscow polling station No 7/1733, Leninskiy Rayon, for the elections of USSR people's deputies. Nikolay Ivanovich Ryzhkov and his wife are voting here." Ryzkov and his wife, accompanied by security men, officials, and a boy are shown entering polling station, showing their identification, and receiving ballots. Ryzhkov tells the boy to watch how things are done and goes to a voting booth. Ryzhkov is shown emerging from the booth, putting his ballot in the box, and then leaving the station.

Radio Airs Conversation

LD2603185889 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1700 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, cast his vote today at polling station No 11/1954 in Moscow's Oktyabrskiy Rayon. Immediately after casting his vote he talked to Soviet and foreign correspondents. You will now hear a recording of this conversation. The journalists were interested in Mikhail Sergeyevich's opinion on certain issues discussed at election meetings, in particular on political pluralism.

[Begin recording] [Gorbachev] I have already expressed myself about this, generally speaking. I think that the existence of a particular number of political parties doesn't represent a solution to the problem, and you can convince yourselves of this simply by turning to world experience. I believe that the key to revealing the potential of our socialist society, in order to identify the multifarious interests of people and then harmonize them on the basis either of concensus or of the majority, is democracy and glasnost. For this reason we shall continue the process of democracy, and it will embrace both the economic, and political, and the cultural sphere. That's the main thing. We shall not retreat on this; on the contrary, we shall open up the possibilities of our system. As you can see, there are enormous possibilities.

[Unidentified woman] Mikhail Sergeyevich. What's your view of the fact that today we are not voting for all deputies?

[Gorbachev] Your question is what is my view of the current electoral system? I think that if you approach an assessment of this election campaign from great political positions and then look at it from the position of the certain experience which we have acquired, then I think that the electoral law which we adopted has justified our hopes. It has set in motion people's political thinking and social activity. That's the main thing we wanted to achieve. Moreover, this was even at the first stage of its application—and we knew that it was as yet imperfect and that we would have to work on it; but we had to work on it after seeing what it would produce and where its shortcomings lay. So I think that this election campaign signifies in itself a very great advancement with regard to the process of society's democratization, and this also applies in the main area, too, where we're talking about power.

The second thing: I think that this new electoral law, for all that, makes it possible to have a different makeup within the Supreme Soviet, which will be up to tackling very important, difficult, and innovative tasks of restructuring.

[Unidentified speaker] In many constituencies there is only one candidate.

[Gorbachev] This is what I think about it: It does not contradict the law. And my viewpoint is based on the fact that it must correspond to the law. However, if you ask me if I am in favor of competition, I would reply that I am in favor of competition, of contest at all stages.

[Unidentified speaker] One hundred candidates for 100 mandates from the party?

[Gorbachev] You know, you want to talk about the party, I will tell you in this way, that at the beginning of this whole process there were 30,500 candidates. Then the process started in the primary party organizations. The party Central Committee submitted the candidatures of some 300 (?candidates). The plenum decided to act in this way; and that's how it acted. This does not contradict the law, either.

[Unidentified speaker] Will there be rotation within the Supreme Soviet, or will there be a permanent composition of people's deputies?

[Gorbachev] Are you acquainted with the law? It is not stated there that there will be rotation? We consider that this is a characteristic of democracy, that it should not just be some people who settle there, but that all 2,250 deputies should be involved with the work in the Supreme Soviet over 5 years. This is very important.

[Unidentified speaker] What is the main goal of the new parliament this year?

[Gorbachev] Wait and it will tell you.

[Unidentified speaker] How can the concept of pluralism and full democracy, which you were the first to say was required by restructuring, be regarded; how can the criticism against Yeltsin be regarded in this concept?

[Gorbachev] I think that now it is not only Comrade Yeltsin who has undergone criticism both in society and during the election campaign, but also the past, the present, and what we have already done in the years of restructuring. So he does not have priority here. It is good that both the activity of the present leadership and the activity of state bodies undergo assessment. That is how it should be. And why should any one of us be beyond criticism and control?

[Unidentified speaker] [Words indistinct] programs of the candidates for deputy?

[Gorbachev] Yes. Well, I will tell you that in order to assess the candidates' programs it is necessary to know them all. In my opinion, not even our All-Union Radio and Television know this, they do not know this. For this reason I would say this about my observation: It seems to me that the people who have been submitted as candidates by our working people—the voters—have done a very great deal to think through their standpoint and to present it to society and the voters. I welcome this. It means that for the first time people were able to see the face, the standpoint, the political and civic standpoint of this person, and moral positions he holds.

For this reason this is good. But if you say to me—were these programs free from shortcomings?—I think that they know themselves, and you and I have all seen that there are many illusions. But you know, when these identified interests come together in the Supreme Soviet and they begin to be compared, then ultimately this is good, because there is a possibility of considering and comparing viewpoints and finding the correct solution. Consequently, in principle I welcome this approach.

[Unidentified man] Somebody said something very interesting to the effect that today's elections are beating the political immaturity out of us. Do you agree with this? [laughter]

[Gorbachev] Well, I've already said that I very highly appraise the present election campaign. It is taking us a long way forward.

[Unidentified woman] [passage indistinct]

[Gorbachev] For candidates put forward as deputies. [laughter]

[Unidentified man] For Yeltsin or for Brakov?

[Gorbachev] But it's secret voting, secret. [laughter]

[Unidentifed man] At a news conference after the plenum, Yegor Kuzmich said that there is full unanimity among members of the leadership, but it turns out that at the plenum more than 10 percent of those voting voted against Igor Kuzmich, and almost 10 percent against Yakovlev. How do you view this?

[Gorbachev] You know, I think that all the same, Yegor Kuzmich was right in the main, as I recall. Incidentally, I didn't watch the news conference on television, but I know roughly what the matter is about. He said that in the Politburo, as in society, debates take place on all questions. That is so, and I am your witness, since I chair the Politburo meetings, and as chairman I stimulate such debates in all manner of ways. We are talking about working out a policy which is necessary for the people, about a working out which is necessary for our society, so that we get out of the situation in which we have found ourselves, and so as to open up a wide road for socialist development and for socialist renewal. I think that this can be done, and that one can reach such a policy only as a result of and with the participation in these debates of all society—and of course at the level of the Politburo debates. In this sense there are debates, but particularly where restructuring is concerned, on the fact that we must perfect socialism and reveal its potential, and that we must move the process of democracy. Overall the Politburo is united in what I have been talking about.

[Unidentified man] What is proved by the fact that it was namely two candidates—Yakovlev and Ligachev—who received the greatest number of votes against?

[Gorbachev] This shows that people are voting as they think fit. [laughter]

[Unidentified man] What's your view of the fact that at the plenum 12 persons voted against you?

[Gorbachev] That was too few. [laughter] I would have been disappointed if there hadn't been any critical remarks, because I feel that not everything is proceeding as we would like, and not at such a rate as we had thought. But the thing is moving, the thing is moving. It is a difficult and complicated matter and we must not permit stupidities; we must not permit leaps or sudden rushes, because we cannot jeopardize the people's future. You know, we have the experience, you see. Let's return, both to the East and the West. These leaps and jumps have happened everywhere; we also had our own jumps and we know what they led to. If we are capable of learning from history and of drawing lessons, then we must act as we are acting, but in some areas I think that we should act more energetically.

[Tikhomirov] Mikhail Sergeyevich, may Soviet television ask you a question?

[Gorbachev] (?You have already asked one.) Ah! That one was from the radio.

[Tikhomirov] Yes, from the radio. It is well known why people are voting—they are voting for restructuring. It is well known against what people are voting—against stagnation. But what can you say to those who will not vote today and who will not use their right to vote? There will also be such people.

[Gorbachev] I would say the following: In the final analysis, this is their right, and in this sense we should state that our democracy stands firmly on a legal basis. And, I think, no one is going to pull them by the sleeve, because this is their civic stand. But I would invite them to vote, because during this election campaign great and crucial problems are at issue. To speak in favor of those who come out vigorously for restructuring, who will represent our society in the Supreme Soviet, and who will solve those issues, means promoting the advance of restructuring and promoting the implementation of their hopes and aspirations through the best people in the Supreme Soviet. Therefore, I would invite them [to vote].

[Tikhomirov] Also, it is a great pity that your family did not come together to the polling station, because if you had all come here together today, with your children, you would have satisfied the enormous interest that society has in your family.

[Gorbachev] You see, I read in some newspaper yesterday, was it in IZVESTIYA?

[Goldanskiy] Yes, in IZVESTIYA!

[Gorbachev] Yes, in IZVESTIYA, and I thought that in our country, on the whole, well, you all know, Academician Goldanskiy...[changes thought] It seems that in our country advertising oneself is something that is not done.

[Man] Yes, but sometimes it happens.

[Gorbachev] One should show it by his deeds. But if the issue has become a topic of discussion and people want to know in greater detail whom they deal with, we will think about that. Put your names on a list of interviewers. Now everything is clear.

[Unidentified woman] Are you happy with the results and today's peace of restructuring?

[Gorbachev] I am not satisfied with the results of restructuring and want it to develop more vigorously and better. But I will tell you that over the 4 years we [words indistinct]. The country will not be the same. What does the academy think?

[Goldanskiy] The academy shares this view completely, and the academy itself has changed.

[Gorbachev] If one looks at the current elections and the election campaign, at its progress (?at the moment), I would say that even applying strict criteria to this election campaign, this is a great step forward in the process of democratization, especially when it is a question of forming government organs. Therefore, I welcome it, despite all the shortcomings and failings that have happened. And we have seen that, perhaps, this law should be further explained, and it is not absolutely perfect. But never before have any of those present here, our Soviet people of different generations—and they can confirm this—never before have they witnessed such talk, interest, and thoughts. And this, you know, is very important, very important, because, in the end, my view is the following: Restructuring will become reality when our working people are active in restructuring everywhere: at enterprises, construction sites, educational establishments, institutes, schools, or medical establishments. This is the main thing. No campaign from the top, no initiative groups with all the noise they make will decide the issue. Man, Soviet man, is the main character of restructuring. Therefore, our men should be involved through the democratic potential, through glasnost, through these mechanisms, through the reforms, including economic reform, and he should be given a real opportunity to judge everything and to make decisions. Then restructuring will become reality, and we will have guarantees that what we have lived through will not repeat itself. We should look at this in a realistic way and stick firmly to this course. They are trying to attack it now, from this and that. Attempts are being made even to rock our boat. No, I think it will pull through. I believe in our people. [applause] [end recording]

Gorbachev, Yeltsin, Ligachev Comment

AU2603141189 Paris AFP in English 1142 GMT 26 Mar 89

[By Anne Penketh]

[Text) Moscow, March 26 (AFP)—Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev on Sunday spelled out his vision of consensus politics in a one-party system as the country voted in the first multi-candidate elections in almost 70 years in which Communist Party maverick Boris Yeltsin appeared set for a landslide victory.

Mr. Gorbachev told Western reporters after casting his vote in elections for 1,500 deputies to a revamped parliament that "democracy and glasnost is the key to reveal the potential of our socialist society, and to harmonise the different interests of people either on a basis of consensus or by a majority."

Asked about prospects for a multi-party system, he reaffirmed: "The question of the existence of more than one party does not solve the problem, look at world experience."

Mr. Gorbachev, who with his wife Raisa voted in central Moscow's fashionable Oktyabrsky district, refused to say whether he had voted for Mr. Yeltsin, the ousted Moscow party chief competing against one other candidate in a special all-Moscow constituency. "It's secret," he said.

He added that criticism of Mr. Yeltsin at a Central Committee plenum last week was "not the main priority" on the agenda.

Mr. Yeltsin's long-time Politburo rival Yegor Ligachev, voting in the same district, said affably: "I will vote for the most worthy", before stepping into the columned Chemists' Hall transformed into a polling station.

Mr. Ligachev shrugged off his unpopularity in the party's internal poll for 100 deputies to the same number of reserved seats in the 2,500-seat Congress of People's Deputies.

Mr. Ligachev, who had a record number of 78 votes cast against him in the March 15 poll to the reserved seats, said that his result "is 88 per cent of favourable votes, which is a very honourable score".

The Politburo's conservative hardliner also played down his dispute with Mr. Yeltsin, currently under investigation by the Central Committee after being accused of supporting a multi-party system.

Mr. Yeltsin was swept inside the almost-deserted polling station of central Moscow's Fruzensky district by a tide of foreign journalists when he arrived just before 9:00 a.m. (0500 GMT) to vote at his local Pioneers' Palace.

Holding his grand-daughter by the hand, a confident Mr. Yeltsin, wearing his usual brown raincoat in the chilly damp, shook hands with supporters and told reporters he had been up "since five o'clock, as usual", despite Saturday night's hour change to summertime.

After stepping behind the floor-length yellow curtains of cabin number three and casting his vote, Mr. Yeltsin hailed the multi-candidate elections as "a big step forward from the past", but said the new electoral law "is not fully democratic".

He said the 2,250-member Congress, of which only two-thirds was being elected on Sunday, would have to examine "the mistakes in this electoral law" and make necessary amendments.

Unofficial poll results indicate that the radical Mr. Yeltsin is set to win over his rival Yevgeni Brakov, the head of the Zil Limousine Company, by 17 times to one. An election commission official from Fruzensky district told AFP Sunday that Mr. Yeltsin would easily win more than the necessary 50 per cent of votes from the 4,000 registered in his constituency.

Asked whether he was concerned about possible ballot falsification, in the wake of the Moscow party's campaign to discredit his candidacy, he said "I hope the count will be honest", adding that he would personally visit polling stations on Sunday night. "There are controls", he stressed.

He also suggested that Mr. Ligachev was behind the Central Committee's March 16 decision to investigate his party loyalty. "It was not without his participation", he said.

At 10.00 a.m. Moscow time, voting on the Kamchatka peninsula in the Soviet Far East, 11 time zones away, had already ended. By lunchtime Sunday, voting in Moscow had become brisk after a slow start.

Soviet authorities will announce the real turn-out figure for the first time for Sunday's elections. Previously, more than 99 per cent of the electorate was officially said to have voted.

Soviet human rights campaigner Andrei Sakharov, expected to be a candidate after originally being rejected by the Academy of Sciences, told reporters Sunday that he had voted for the first time in more than 10 years.

The results will be made known in individual constituencies on Monday, while it will take 10 days for the nationwide list of deputies to be published.

Despite a lively campaign in Moscow and the large cities, in most of the Soviet Union the elections took place much as usual. Only one candidate was fielded in a full quarter of seats.

Yeltsin Elected in Moscow; Garners 89 Percent

LD2703125989 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1245 GMT 27 Mar 89

[Text] Moscow, 27 Mar (TASS)—The preliminary results of the elections of people's deputies of the USSR have been summed up today by the Moscow electoral commissions. USSR people's deputies have been elected in 15 of the territorial electoral constituencies of the Soviet capital. Repeat voting will be held in eight constituencies, while repeat elections will take place in three. Over 80 percent of the voters took part.

Boris Yeltsin, first deputy chairman of the State Construction Committee and USSR minister, was elected USSR people's deputy for Moscow city national territorial constituency No 1; he received 89 percent of the vote. His rival was Yevgeniy Brakov, general director of the ZIL car factory.

AFP Cites Yeltsin 'Landslide'

AU2603193389 Paris AFP in English 1919 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] Moscow, March 26 (AFP)—Moscow's ousted party chief Boris Yeltsin won a landslide victory in elections to the revamped Soviet parliament on Sunday, with some 80 per cent of votes in Moscow, according to initial results.

A Moscow election official told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that Mr. Yeltsin had won between 88 per cent and 90 per cent of the first 60,000 votes counted in Moscow, which numbers some 6.7 million electors.

In another polling station, officials told an AFP correspondent that Mr. Yeltsin had won 75 per cent of the votes cast.

Mr. Yeltsin is running for the key Moscow seat in the new Congress of People's Deputies.

Yeltsin Rally Biggest Since 1917

AU2503160189 Paris AFP in English 1526 GMT 25 Mar 89

[By Pierre Glachant]

[Text] Moscow, March 25 (AFP)—Tens of thousands of people on Saturday attended the biggest unofficial rally held in Moscow since the 1917 revolution to express support for Boris Yeltsin in Sunday's Soviet elections.

Organisers said there were 40,000 people, an AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE correspondent at the scene put the figure at 20,000.

But the rally, news of which was spread through the Soviet capital by word of mouth, was the third in the past week to back the former Moscow Communist Party chief in his much-publicised campaign for a place in the new Congress of People's Deputies.

Mr. Yeltsin was sacked as party leader for the city in 1987 and later removed from the Politburo because of his outspoken criticism of attempts by party conservatives to block President Mikhail Gorbachev's reform programme.

The rally heard new accusations that the party machine had organised a campaign against Mr. Yeltsin, who according to an unofficial poll will win a landslide victory in Moscow.

The two kilometer (1.2 mile) road between the Lujniki stadium and the nearest underground railway station was packed with supporters streaming to the rally. Witnesses said it was the biggest unofficial demonstration in Moscow since the 1917 revolution.

All along the road lamposts and bus shelters were covered with pro-Yeltsin posters, copies of his election programme and copies of his article that appeared in the Moscow Party daily on Saturday, the AFP correspondent said.

There were also copies of poems praising the radical Communist Party reformist and blasting the party bureaucracy.

Dozens of interior ministry troops were in the area and about 100 uniformed soldiers were kept in reserve. The first speakers at the rally made calls for the forces to be withdrawn, the correspondent said.

In the MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA article, Mr. Yeltsin accused the city leadership of organising a smear campaign to discredit his candidacy.

He said pressure had been put on factory and office workers to prevent his election, anonymous graffiti and "even a special appeal from one Soviet (town hall) about who to vote for."

He also accused MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA of deliberately taking part in the campaign by refusing to publish letters of support for his candidacy.

"Society and the party is suffering from a crisis," Mr. Yeltsin said in his letter. He said the way to resolve the crisis was through "a radical democratisation and struggle against the bureaucratic party apparatus, corruption and social injustice."

The rest of Mr. Yeltsin's letter was devoted to a point-by-point rebuttal of accusations published by the Moscow party organ last Sunday, which he said were "deliberate falsifications" and "not an isolated incident."

According to MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA deputy editor Valentin Logunov, who made similar charges against the party in an interview with AFP on Friday, Mr. Yeltsin's letter was only published after an intervention "at the highest level"—implying the ruling Politburo and possibly Mr. Gorbachev.

Mr. Logunov said the Moscow party ordered the letter to be censored after a majority of the paper's editors approved publication. He accused Politburo member Lev Zaikov, Mr. Yeltsin's successor as Moscow party boss, of being behind the anti-Yeltsin campaign.

Mr. Logunov was also one of the speakers at the two-hour long Yeltsin rally Saturday.

He was catwhistled before speaking, but shouted to the crowd that he supported the former city leader, and explained how Mr. Yeltsin's letter was finally published.

He did not mention Mr. Zaykov by name at the rally, but the crowd shouted back "shame" and "down with Zaykov." They also booed when the name of Yegor Ligachev, the leading conservative in the party hierarchy, was mentioned.

Another speaker said several inhabitants had come from the Ural mountains town of Sverdlovsk that Mr. Yeltsin used to control, so that they could vote for him. But the speaker highlighted that only permanent residents could vote in Moscow.

Some 184 million Soviet people are eligible to vote for the revamped parliament.

Mr. Yeltsin's fate will be decided by 6.5 million voters but despite the poll predictions in his favour, he still faces expulsion from the policy-making Central Committee, and possibly from the party itself, if a commission set up on the urging of party conservatives finds him guilty of voicing support for a multi-party system.

Mr. Yeltsin also fears that if elected to the 2,250-seat legislature, he will not be chosen from members to sit in the new two-chamber Supreme Soviet which is to wield real legislative power and meet for up to eight months per year.

'Smear Campaign' Against Yeltsin

AU2403205089 Paris AFP in English 1949 GMT 24 Mar 89

[Report by Anne Penketh]

[Text] Moscow, March 24 (AFP)—In a dramatic move on the eve of elections to a revamped parliament, the deputy editor of a Moscow newspaper Friday accused the Moscow party apparatus, headed by Politburo member Lev Zaikov, of orchestrating a smear campaign against former party leader Boris Yeltsin.

In an interview with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE two days before the elections in which Mr. Yeltsin is a candidate for a special all-Moscow seat, the deputy editor of the daily MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA, Valentin Logunov, said his own paper's "persecution of Yeltsin" had led to "the destabilisation of the situation" in the capital.

Mr. Logunov cited a long list of examples in which the Moscow party organ had deliberately suppressed information about Mr. Yeltsin's campaign, and said that on Thursday the city party had ordered the censorship of a letter from Mr. Yeltsin which had earlier been approved by a majority of the paper's editors.

He said the Yeltsin letter, a rebuttal of a personal attack published in Sunday's MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA by Moscow official Vladimir Tikhomirov, would now be published in Saturday's paper, but only after an intervention "from the highest level", implying the ruling Politburo and possibly Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. Negotiations to ensure the letter would be published lasted all day Friday.

Mr Logunov said Politburo member Vadim Medvedev, responsible for ideology, was "probably" at Thursday's party meeting which censored the Yeltsin letter.

Mr. Logunov's accusations mark a further twist in the long-running Yeltsin drama. Mr. Yeltsin, 58, who was sacked as Moscow party chief in November 1987 after criticising the slow pace of change and Politburo conservative Yegor Ligachev, has remained popular among Muscovites since his fall from grace.

Thousands of his supporters have staged three rallies this week, including two outside Moscow City Hall, to call on the city's 6.5 million registered voters to back Yeltsin in Sunday's poll.

According to Mr. Logunov, a confidential poll of 2,000 Muscovites shows that Mr. Yeltsin will beat his opponent in Sunday's election, the head of the Zil limousine firm Yevgeni Brakov, by a 17 to one majority.

Mr. Brakov's leaflets have been widely distrbuted throughout Moscow, whereas Mr. Yeltsin's have been ripped down in many parts of town. Mr. Logunov said the party machine was deliberately pulling down Yeltsin posters.

The attitude of the Moscow apparatus "has contributed to the opposition of the party and the people," he said.

Asked whether Mr. Zaykov was personally behind the campaign to discredit his predecessor as Moscow chief, Mr. Logunov said: "Yes, of course."

He said Mr. Yeltsin, originally from the Urals city of Sverdlovsk, was unpopular with the Moscow party because he had tried to energetically clean out corruption and disturbed the system when leader.

Among other examples of the party apparatus' "disinformation" campaign, Mr. Logunov said the MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA had published fabricated letters supporting Mr. Brakov, while 382 letters received from factory and office workers in support of Mr. Yeltsin had gone unpublished.

Not one of the 1,000 letters received since Sunday, objecting to Mr. Tikhomirov's attack on Mr. Yeltsin, had yet been made public, he added.

Mr. Logunov said that in the midst of the uproar over the censorship of the Yeltsin letter, he had been relieved of his post as night-editor overseeing Friday's edition of the paper.

3,000 Armenians Rally in Yerevan Election Protest

AU2603133889 Paris AFP in English 1220 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] Moscow, March 26 (AFP)—Three thousand Armenians Sunday defied a ban on demonstrations and marched for an hour through central Yerevan protesting Sunday's elections and chanting nationalist slogans, Armenian sources said.

Police and Army troops, which are enforcing a four-month old curfew in the Armenian capital, dispersed the demonstration and detained one Armenian nationalist, journalist Alexander Arzumanian [name as received] told AFP in a telephone call from Yerevan. Mr. Arzumanian works for the non-official journal EKSPRESS KHRONIKA.

The demonstrators had banners which said "Occupiers out of Armenia", referring to the Soviet interior ministry troops in the capital sent there after nationalist unrest, "Independent elections", "Free the Karabakh committee" and "We elect the Karabakh Committee".

The 11 members of the Karabakh Committee, which spearheaded last year's nationalist movement in favour of the transfer of the Azerbaijani territory of Nagorno-Karabakh to Armenia, were arrested in the wake of the December 7 Armenian earthquake.

Armenian nationalists have called for a boycott of Sunday's elections to a new Congress of People's Deputies in Moscow to protest the Karabakh Committee's arrest.

High Voting Turnout Reported in Moscow

LD2603094989 Moscow TASS in English 0922 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] Moscow March 26 TASS—By TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov:

Voting stations were open since 7:00 in the Soviet capital Sunday as Muscovites, along with compatriots all over the country, went to the polls to choose their representatives to a new state legislature—the Congress of People's Deputies.

The more than 6.7 million registered voters in the city are to select one of two candidates from the Moscow-wide constituency and 26 out of 80 candidates running in the capital's smaller electoral districts.

People polled by this correspondent in ten of the capital's 3,393 election precincts, located both downtown and in the suburbs, shared basically the same feeling about the election, which was best expressed by 27-year-old worker Vasiliy Feofanov:

"I'm voting today not just for a specific candidate, but primarily for continued perestroyka and greater democracy in the country."

Galina Chaplygina, secretary of the Electoral Commission in Precinct No. 9999 in the northern outskirts of the city, noted high voter turnout figures despite early hours.

"Unlike previous elections, nearly one-third of the voters cast their ballots by as early as ten o'clock. I think that practically all the eligible voters in this precinct will come to the polls today."

As noon approached, more and more people could be seen walking to polling stations.

Full returns in Moscow are to be published no later than March 28.

Revote Planned in Moscow Constituency

LD2703053889

[Editorial Report] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 0400 GMT on 27 March broadcasts a report on the vote counting in Moscow's No 7 Gagarinskiy territorial constituency. Andrey Nikiforov, who attended the vote counting, reports: "You have heard, comrades, that the official and final protocol on the voting for the Gagarinskiy electoral commission is being made public. The situation is such that none of the 12 candidates for people's deputy gained more than 50 percent of the votes of the electors and no one can be registered as a USSR people's deputy."

the chairman of the constituency electoral commission, Anatoliy Andreyevich Kovalev explains what this means: "The session of the commission has just made a decision on a revote on 9 April for the two candidates who gained the greatest number of votes. These are Chernichenko, Yuriy Dmitriyevich; and Ashin, Gennadiy Konstantinovich."

No Voting-Related Incidents in Moscow

LD2603101889 Moscow TASS in English 1003 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] Moscow March 26 TASS—Public order in Moscow on polling day Sunday was a militiaman's dream, according to a man in the know.

Lieutenant-General Pyotr Bogdanov, chief of the city's militia department, told TASS: "If public order in the city always was like today, we could breathe easier. The number of offenses is much lower than usual and no voting-related incidents were reported."

"Muscovites were given advance notice, which they treated with understanding, that the militia is fully prepared to ensure public order on election day.

"This applies to both preventing violations of the law and enforcing polling regulations which require that there be no stumping, canvassing or picketing on election day," General Bogdanov said.

Moscow Voters Questioned

LD2503173189

[Editorial Report] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1530 GMT on 25 March carries a 6-minute report by correspondent Aleksandr Zhetvin from the streets of Moscow on the mood of voters going into tomorrow's people's deputy elections. In many places in the city of Moscow, one meets people from the initiative groups and election agents explaining the procedure for the elections. There will be two voting slips, explains one agent. One voting slip will be blue and the other white. The blue slip is for voting in the national-territorial constituency which includes all of Moscow.

Voters are interviewed who know about the candidates and have made a conscious decision about which one deserves their vote. One voter says that he would not vote for (Sazhin), an election candidate who is the general director of a furniture combine, because that combine turns out defective furniture. He goes on to say: "The point is to vote more or less democratically for specific people, but many do not know for whom they are voting. Everyone had an opportunity to participate in the meetings, but not all people were active due to mistrust. And this mistrust of the people is a scourge. I believe in the restructuring, believe in everything, believe in our people. Our people will cope. But it depends on the leadership how our new deputies are elected and how they lead. They are good at talking. We will see."

Another lady also has made a conscious decision about who will get her vote. She goes on to say: "I merely want to say that often a lot is said now and is promised. I think that there are certain forces which are opposing the restructuring."

A young man is asked for an interview. Zhetvin asks: "In what way will you be voting tomorrow?" The young man replies: "Well, I will not be voting at all." Zhetvin asks: "You have become so disenchanted?" "Absolutely so," says the young man. "But you are a young person," complains Zhetvin, continuing: "You should look ahead." The young man says: "But it is useless struggling. One person will not be able to do anything by himself. He will just bang his head, or he will be dealt with." Zhetvin and other people on the street say that people must act together and then things will be achieved.

(Aleksandr Sazonov) deputy chairman of an electoral commission, says: "There have never been elections like this before, where people chose candidates in a fairly conscious way, examined the recent actions of those people, and discussed their programs—and in an interested way, too. But nearly all the voters are saying that all the platforms have two substantial faults. The first one is that the platforms are very declarative. There are very few specific proposals. And the second one is that the platforms hardly differ from one another, with rare exceptions. Effectively, this is the first experience of such elections, and it is possible that they will be a lesson for learning, so to speak."

Many people are asking the candidates to see to it that the election system is refined in the future, (Sazonov) says.

Zhetvin says that he has seen in many districts of Moscow how the polling stations are ready for tomorrow's elections. He finishes with the words: "However, one cannot speak definitively about the state of readiness of the voters for the elections."

TASS on Preliminary Moscow Returns

LD2703152889 Moscow TASS in English 1518 GMT 27 Mar 89

[Text] Moscow March 27 TASS—By TASS Correspondents Vladimir Isachenkov and Valeriy Kiosa:

"People's deputies have been elected in 15 out of the 26 territorial election districts of the Soviet capital. More than 80 per cent of the voters came to the polls", we were told at city's election commissions. We also learned that Boris Yeltsin, first deputy chairman of the State Building Committee and minister of the USSR, was elected people's deputy of the USSR in the Moscow city national-territorial districe Number one. He got 89.44 per cent of the votes.

The elected include economist Aleksey Yemelyanov, professor of Moscow University, Doctor Viktor Tsuryupa, circus performer and founder of the spinal cord treatment centre Valentin Dikul, Academician Oleg Bogomolov, director of the Institute of the Economy of the World Socialist System under the USSR Academy of Sciences, Telman Gdlyan, investigating officer for particularly grave offenses under the USSR General Procurator's Office.

A second vote will be held in eight territorial districts. This is envisaged by the elections law in cases when there are more than two candidates on the ballot and all fail to get more than a half of the total number of votes.

Thus, in Gagarin district, which nominated the country's record number of candidates—12, the biggest number of votes were cast for publicist Yuriy Chernichenko and philosophy professor of Moscow University Gennady Ashin (38.7 and 21.8 per cent of the total.) In keeping with the law, the second vote is to be held not later than two weeks from now. A similar procedure will be carried out in Voroshilov district, where the biggest number of votes among six candidates was returned by historian Roy Medvedev and Kseniya Razumova, chief of a laboratory at the Institute of Nuclear Energy.

Repeated elections will be held not later than two months from now in three districts, where the elections were contested by two candidates and neither of them has received the needed majority of votes. Such a situation was recorded, for instance, in Lyublino district, where neither the mayor of Moscow Valeriy Saykin nor working woman Nina Ageyeva got the needed number of votes, thereby dropping out of the race. This means that a new nomination and registration of candidates is to be carried out there.

Moscow Voter Turnout 'Heavy'

LD2603120889 Moscow TASS in English 1115 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] Moscow March 26 TASS—By TASS correspondent Kirill Dibrova:

Although it is impossible to say how many Muscovites have cast their votes by midday—it would be unrealistic to phone all 3,393 Moscow polling stations, a visit to some of them indicated that voter turnout is heavy. This can be accounted for by the fact that for the first time the Soviet people are offered a choice of several candidates.

"I used to regard elections as a formality, knowing beforehand that my choice wouldn't decide anything. I simply dropped by ballot into the ballot-box, often without reading it at all. But today, I voted with full responsibility. It took me more than a day to make a final decision," 36-year-old metro builder Gennadiy Samoilov told the TASS correspondent at one of the voting stations.

"Today I really feel that I'm taking part in running the affairs of the state," said physicist Alexander Nersesyan, 23. "In fact, it wasn't easy for me to make a choice. I think that both of our district candidates—lawyer Valeriy Savitskiy and economist Aleksey Yemelyonov, deserve to be elected to the Congress of People's Deputies."

Moscow will be represented by 26 deputies out of 750 to be elected from territorial constituencies. Eight candidates are contesting these seats. One more Moscow representative should be elected by national territorial principle (there are 750 national territorial districts in USSR). Two candidates are running for this seat.

Election Districts Voting Processes Reported

Attempts To Disrupt Yerevan Voting

NC2703080989 Yerevan Domestic Service in Armenian 0425 GMT 27 Mar 89

[From the review of SOVETAKAN AYASTAN]

[Text] The voting (?booth) opened in Yerevan's Leninyan Election District early yesterday morning. Considerable work preceded voting day to ensure public law and order. However, there were no (?barricades) manned by troops and militia units anywhere in the district even though, unfortunately, individual irresponsible citizens were attempting to disrupt the normal course of voting. A dispatch by the ARMENPRES reporter has been published on the voting held in the Leninyan District of the capital.

Voting Begins in Far East

LD2603044889 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0330 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] Today is election day for USSR people's deputies. It is half an hour since the polling stations opened in Moscow, while the final stage of the election campaign is already past its height in the east of the country. Khabarovsk is now on the line. Over to our correspondent, Leonid Stroikov.

[Stroikov] Yes, here in Khabarovsk it is already into the afternoon, and things are calmer even at the polling stations. Whether by tradition or not, the people of the Far East did in the main turn out fairly early to vote. The passions surrounding the candidates for people's deputy went on to the very last day. What are the overall impressions? People are more dignified. The possibility of a genuine election means greater personal responsibility for each person. Did everyone understand the situation? It's too early to talk about that yet. The number of participants in the voting will only be known in the evening. Interest is great, however. There are public representatives and the candidate people's deputies' trusted people at the polling stations. That's in Khabarovsk.

Here are some reports from around the kray. Sovetskaya Gavan: Crews of the fishing vessels that are at work in the Bering Sea voted at 0700 and have already reported the results over portable radio. Incidentally, reindeer herders here, too, give the count of the votes over the radio as well. In the village of (Gradekovo) in the Imeni Lazo Rayon, machine operators were the first at the polling station. The elections this year coincide with the start of grain sowing so once they voted the machine operators set off for the fields, the first in the rayon to do so.

Amursk: By 1200 local time, 40 percent of the voters had already taken part in the elections, and at five polling stations, work had already finished and the documents are being prepared for handing in. In the Jewish Autonomous Oblast the electors have one voting paper more than at the other polling stations in Khabarovsk Kray. Under the law on the elections, another five national-territorial constituencies were formed there.

What questions are being put to members of the local electoral commissions? Sadly, some people found that they were not on the lists of voters. They had not checked earlier, had been ill or away on business, and today they are demanding their right to vote.

A few more figures. Only in one constituency in Khabarovsk Kray was a single candidate deputy registered. The remainder had two each. We end up with the possibility of genuinely electing the most worthy, the guarantee of the irreversibility of progressive changes in our society.

Soon everything will be clear for the candidates and for us ourselves. A little less than 5 hours remain here in the Far East until the urns are opened and the counting of votes begins.

Far East People's Candidates Viewed

LD2603143889 Moscow TASS in English 1333 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] Moscow March 26 TASS—Voters in the Soviet Far East were the first in the nation to cast their ballots on election day Sunday.

While it was still midnight in Moscow, people in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, capital of the island of Sakhalin 10,000 kilometers and eight time zones to the west, went to the polls, many with children, dressed warmly against the cold snap which is unusual for this time of year.

Voter in constituency 290 had to choose between Viktor Bundarchuk, first secretary of the Sakhalin region party committee, and Vitaliy Guliya, a reporter on the staff of the local newspaper SOVETSKIY SAKHALIN.

Although a relative newcomer to the island, Bondarchuk has been able to accomplish much in resolving its pressing social problems.

Guliya is also known well to constituents for his articles raising thorny issues of concern to fellow islanders and slamming foot-dragging bureaucrats.

Both competitors are worthy candidates and so the voters were presented with a difficult choice.

An equally balanced slate is said to be up for grabs in one of two constituencies in Irkutsk, capital of eastern Siberia with 600,000 residents. The two men on the ballot there were Aleksandr Dzizinskiy, rector of a local physicians' refresher training college, and scientist Gennadiy Filshin. Both carry about the same weight in the area, although Dzizinsky moved to the city just five years ago, while Filshin is a native of the area and is backed by well-known author Valentin Rasputin who has campaigned actively on his behalf.

The results of the voting will be known tomorrow.

There was an interesting development in Novosibirsk, a major west Siberian city, when its neighbourhood known as Akademgorodok, home of many academic centers, failed to get any of its ten suggested candidates, all scientists, on the ballot in its election district which includes several other housing estates.

The area's all-important nomination meeting opted instead for fitter Aleksandr Voropayev, locomotive driver Aleksy Kozlov and plant director Viktor Aranovskiy.

Although they failed in their campaign there, Akademgorodok scientists still have a chance to get a representative in the state legislature as the chairman of the Academy of Sciences' Siberian division, academician Valentin Koptyug, is running in a larger constituency which incorporates their area.

All in all, Soviet voters will elect 1,500 people to serve on the congress of people's deputies today. a total of 2,895 candidates are running.

Polling Closes in Chukotka

LD2603081489 Moscow TASS in English 0804 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy March 26 TASS—It was ten o'clock in the morning in Moscow Sunday—election day in the Soviet Union—when polling stations closed in Chukotka Peninsula eleven time zones away in the Far East as voting to return deputies to serve on the new Soviet state legislature was completed in the easternmost Soviet constituencies.

Elsewhere in the nation voters are still going to the polls to elect their representatives to the Congress of People's Deputies.

A total of 2,895 candidates are running for 1,500 parliamentary seats from geogrpahical constituencies. The other 750 Congress vacancies will be filled by deputies directly elected from various public organisations—the party, trade unions and professional and other associations.

Voters are facing a choice of two candidates in 953 constituencies and three to twelve candidates in 163 others, whereas 384 election districts have just one candidate each.

The candidates are mostly men, with women making up merely a little over 16 per cent of the total.

The contenders are members of 69 different ethnic groups living in the Soviet Union.

Workers in Ethiopia Cast Ballots

LD2703113289 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0642 GMT 27 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Addis Ababa, 27 Mar (TASS)—For the first time, Soviets working in Ethiopia have taken part in the election of USSR people's deputies. [passage omitted]

These votes will be included in the results of the elections for Pervomayskiy territorial constituency no 18 in Moscow and the Moscow city national-territorial constituency no 1 of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic], to which the collective of Soviet citizens in Ethiopia has been attached.

Baltic Republics' Voting Off to 'Slow Start'

AU2603143989 Paris AFP in English 1328 GMT 26 Mar 89

[By Sylvie Lanteaume]

[Text] Riga, Soviet Union, March 26 (AFP)—Polling got off to a slow start Sunday in the Latvian republic capital where many people opted to go to Easter mass before picking their candidates to the new Congress of People's Deputies.

By midday, only a small proportion of voters had fulfilled their electoral duty although churches recorded peak attendance in a republic where Catholic tradition has remained strong despite past repression.

The streets of Riga were decorated with Soviet and Latvian flags for the country's first new style elections in which 96 candidates, including 30 nationalists, are vying for 40 parliamentary seats.

In Latvia, as in in the neighbouring Baltic republics of Estonia and Lithuania, all those who registered were allowed to run in the election. In other Soviet republics, candidates went through a "filtering" process to weed out those deemed unsuitable.

Of the 30 nationalist candidates, most want more autonomy from Moscow and some are calling for full independence.

The most spectacular contest will pit the Latvian Communist Party First Secretary Ianis Vagris against Iouri Tobelis, leader of a pro-independence movement.

Observers said the apparently low turnout did not reflect apathy among the Baltic population for the election to the 2,250-seat Congress of Deputies to which the president and the Soviet Government will in future be answerable.

Officials said the city's 80,000 eligible voters had a choice of 176 polling centres set up in schools, social centres and even theatres.

All voters went into a screened cabin before placing the envelope with their ballot slip into the box.

No-one was apparently appointed to guard the ballot box to make sure voters did not put more than one envelope inside.

The vote counting will be carried out overnight and the first results will be available on Monday, an electoral committee official said.

Meanwhile the three Baltic republics ushered in a new era Sunday by refusing to follow the rest of the Soviet Union into "summer time."

For the first time since 1940 when the Baltic republics were annexed, the republics will have a different time from Moscow. The decision not to put the clocks on an hour last night was taken last year but only recently made public.

TASS on Voting in Baltic Republics

LD2603210489 Moscow TASS in English 2052 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] Moscow March 27 TASS—TASS correspondents report from cities in Baltic area:

Karl Rebane, president of Estonia's Academy of Sciences, can understand the emotions of 104 candidates for USSR people's deputies whose names are on the ballots for voting in territorial and national-territorial election districts in Estonia. Elections were held there on Sunday [26 March]. Rebene has already been elected deputy from the USSR Academy of Sciences. As many as 12 people's deputies have already been elected from public organisations in Estonia. Four deputies in territorial districts and 32 in national territorial districts are to be elected in Estonia on Sunday. No matter who is elected, the scientist is confident that the deputies' activities will be more vigorous and effective. In an interview to TASS he explained this view by a new political atmosphere that formed in the USSR.

Rebane condemned the striving of certain forces in Estonia to exacerbate inter-ethnic relations.

Problems of inter-ethnic relations held an important place in the election campaign in Lithuania. An open letter to the voters from Algirdas Brazauskas, first secretary of the Central Committee of Lithuania's Communist Party, is widely known in the election district where he runs. In the letter he warned against going to the extreme, against maximalist slogans. "The sovereignty of Lithuania as an equal Soviet republic is our chief purpose", he declared.

In Latvia, there was acute competition in the recent days between some 100 candidates for 40 seats. Elections for them are held in territorial and national-territorial districts. The candidates' positions and programmes are diverse. For instance, competiton to Jan Vagris, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Latvia, is put up by Engineer Juris Dobelis, who is one of the leaders of the so-called "Movement for Latvia's National Independence", which declares for Latvia's secession from the USSR.

The conversations that TASS correspondents held at polling stations in Latvia showed that people mainly give preference to those candidates whose programmes take into consideration a complex political situation in the republic and who reject extremist slogans. Most voters are of the opinion that a constructive attitude aimed at the elimination of acute social and inter-ethnic problems should play the decisive role.

Unofficial youth associations played a marked role in the election campaign in Leningrad. There are some 2,000 such organisations in the USSR's second biggest city. They were actively canvassing for candidates whose programmes, in their opinion, suit them the best. Yuriy Solovyov, candidate for USSR people's deputies, head of the Leningrad regional party organisation, told TASS that there are many constructive things in the proposals of unofficial youth organisations and that it will be deputies' duty to support them.

Baltic Preliminary Results

LD2703132189 Helsinki Domestic Service in Finnish 1300 GMT 27 Mar 89

[Text] The Estonian Popular Front has, according to preliminary results, gained a majority of the republic's seats to the new Soviet parliament. The Estonian party leader, premier and president were also elected by a clear majority to the Supreme Soviet [as heard]. The Popular Front had urged citizens to vote for the present leadership in Estonia.

In Latvia the party leader gained a narrow majority, according to preliminary results. On the other hand, the republic's premier was not elected to the parliament. In Lithuania, the Popular Front did best, getting 30 of the republic's 42 deputies.

Estonian 'Confidence' Vote for Leaders

LD2703171589 Helsinki International Service in Finnish 1800 GMT 27 Mar 89

[Excerpts] The election result in Estonia was a vote of confidence in the republic's reform-minded leadership. The Popular Front and the Greens also got a strong representation, but the share of Russians remained low. The voting in the Estonian elections was a record high—according to preliminary informtion the voting percentage was about 90. Jyrki Saarikoski reports:

[Saarikoski] The election result gives a strong power of attorney to the leadership of Estonia at a time when it is really needed. Party leader Vaino Valjas, Premier Indrek Toome, and President Arnold Ryuytel all received almost 90 percent of the vote in their election districts. Now we must take into account the fact that this was a real election, with opposing candidates and election campaigns.

This shows that the reform-minded leadership of Estonia has the strong support of the citizens, although the most impatient ones have criticized their line as too moderate. On the other hand, the election result is a clear response to the criticism of the Russian Inter-movement.

The most topical leaders of the Estonian Popular Front, Edgar Savisaar and Marju Lauristin, easily got their representative seats and the economist of the Greens, Titt Made and Juhan Aarye, were also elected. However, the hard- line Russians also got their representatives in to the Estonian delegation. The director of the Dvigatel factory, Vladimir Yarovoy, was elected and the leader of the Inter-movement, Yevgeni Kogan, has good chances of being elected in the second round. These choices can, for their part, channel the dissatisfaction of the Russian citizens and thus perhaps quiet it down at a time when the overwhelming majority of the Estonian delegation remained strongly Estonian.

In 30 election districts the election of the candidates was done directly, but in a few there must be further voting because nobody got more than half of the votes. It still is not known what the exact percentage of voting was, but according to preliminary information it was on average even about 90, which is higher than in Finland. This shows how seriously the Estonians take the political situation here. It must be noted that this time the high percentage of voting is not officially stated from high up in the party leadership. [passage omitted]

The election result is, however, a blow to the Inter-movement, which the Estonians regard as part of a conspiracy against the reform policy of Gorbachev. It seems that part of the Russian population also supported Estonian candidates, and in any case the highest leadership of Estonia now has received in free elections a clear vote of confidence, the importance of which is going to be great.

'Boycott Committee' in Estonia

PM2403173589 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Mar 89 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by own correspondent L. Levitskiy: "Beyond the Limits of Democracy"]

[Text] Tallinn—The election struggle in Estonia is coming to an end. Struggle indeed, because all public movements and organizations are vigorously, energetically backing their candidates for the country's supreme legislative organ and are trying to win the support of the electorate. On average 5-6 contenders were put forward for each electoral okrug, but there now remain 2-3, those with the greatest faith in themselves, in the sympathies of the populace, and in the popularity of their programs.

It is the general view that a truly mass, open, and intense political campaign is being conducted. And no doubt it is this that the extremist groupings do not like. For them the increasing pace of restructuring and the renewal of the political system and the whole of our life are worse than any period of stagnation. So a mysterious "Election Boycott Committee" has appeared. To announce itself, it resorted to leaflets of a blatantly unconstitutional nature. "Compatriots. Do not go to the polls. Everyone boycott the farce.... Disrupt these elections." Of course, whether one participates or not in the elections and what deputy one votes for is a matter of civic duty, of everyone's life stance and philosophy. But attempts to disrupt the elections are beyond the limits of democracy. So are the calls for ethnic dissension and the abusive tone.

As well as leaflets, blatantly provocative rumors have started circulating. For example, to the effect that the "greens," and they have many supporters, will be boycotting the elections for some reason. The board of the Tallinn Green movement was forced via the press to rebut the conjecture and urge voters to vote for "green" candidates.

The "committee" and its "product" would not have been worth mentioning—they will have little effect on the election results. But is it not odd that the appearance of the leaflet was immediately reported by Radio Liberty? To what end?

"Nearly everything is ready for the elections. The electorate's political activity is high"—this is the view at the Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic Supreme Soviet Presidium. "It is obviously futile to try to disrupt it."

Reportage on Preparations for Elections

TV Presents Preview

LD2503220289 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 25 Mar 89

[From the "Vremya" newscast; Kira Grigoryeva commentary]

[Excerpts] Tomorrow is election day for USSR people's deputies. Kira Grigoryeva, our commentator, talks about how the last day of agitation and propaganda work has been spent.

[Grigoryeva] And so, the last day of the pre-election campaign has ended. Our country has been engaged in it for 4 months. Everything is ready for tomorrow's elections. The polling stations open at 0700. [passage omitted] Today is the last day for voters to drum up support for their candidates. The cosmonauts on the Mir orbital complex have asked to speak on our program.

[Begin recording] [Volkov] We are attached to the Shchelkovskiy constituency No 45. There are two candidates in that constitutency: (Semenov) and (Chubov). All of us lads are involved in cosmonautics, and of course, since we know (Semenov), we want to cast our votes for him. We are in no way minimizing the merits of (Chubov), but all the same we feel a greater affinity for our comrade who is involved in building new space technology, and who is with us at the launch of every space flight. We know him and all his businesslike and truly comradely qualities very well. And for that reason, we are right behind him.

[Polyakov] This probably sounds a little like overtures to Yuriy Pavlovich, but it is by virtue of his social position—as a leader in the development of space technology—that he can be of help. By his actions he really will help ensure an expansion of production for the needs of the people and for the output of highly effective medicinal resources with the help of the cosmonauts on board. We already have such facilities. Now it is a matter of ordering them. Now it is up to financial autonomy. And the cosmonauts are prepared to do all they can and more to carry out this work. [video: the cosmonaut speaking to camera] [end recording]

[Grigoryeva] [passage omitted] And now the outcome of the election campaign from the point of view of the chairman of the Central Electoral Commission, [V.P. Orlov].

[Begin Orlov recording] Each one of us has been aware of how the run-up to the elections to the supreme body of power has been unusual and has taken place in an atmosphere of extensive democracy, glasnost, and competitiveness. [passage omitted]

And now it is up to you, comrade voters, to make your choice of whom to send to the supreme body of state power. I want to invite you, comrade voters, to the polling stations. Before you drop your voting slips into the ballot boxes you will have to pass through the voting booth and make your choice. Just remember that the future destiny of our society, the destiny of restructuring, of political reform and of the transformations in the life of our people will depend largely on your decision. [end recording] [passage omitted]

TASS on Election Preparations

LD2503154489 Moscow TASS in English 1431 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] Moscow March 25 TASS—By TASS correspondent:

Elections of USSR people's deputies from territorial and national-territorial electoral districts will be held in the Soviet Union on Sunday.

Polling stations will be open from seven a.m. to eight p.m., local time, throughout the territory of the vast country with eleven time belts.

Under the provisions of the law for the election of USSR people's deputies, electoral precincts are formed, with the number of voters ranging from 20 to 3,000. Polling stations are set up at polar research and mountain stations, at ships of the Soviet fleet during a voyage—wherever the number of voters meets the requirements of the electoral law.

In order to ensure the participation of every voter in the elections wherever he or she is, polling stations are also set up at railway stations, at sea and air terminals—wherever Soviet people may find themselves on the polling day.

The law entrusts the electoral precinct commissions with the task of preparing premises for polling and organising the polling process. The commissions are responsible for fitting out the premises as prescribed by the electoral law which envisages as follows: places for the issue of ballot papers should be determined in rooms where polling takes place. A sufficient number of polling booths or rooms for secret ballot should be provided, and ballot boxes should be installed.

The ballot boxes should be positioned so as to enable the voters to cast their ballot after passing through polling booths or rooms for secret ballot.

Prior to the beginning of polling, the ballot boxes should be inspected and sealed up. This shall be done personally by the chairman of the precinct electoral commission and in the presence of all commission members.

The electoral law stipulates that every voter is to cast his or her vote personally and may not delegate this to anyone else. This is why ballot papers will be issued according to voters' lists compiled in advance (the lists are produced for a general review ten days prior to polling) and upon the presentation of identity papers. A notation in the voters' list will rule out the possibility of a repeated voting.

If a voter is ill or cannot go to the polling station for other reasons, he or she has a right to ask the electoral commission to organise voting at home. In that case one of the members of the commission will go to the voter's place with a special ballot box.

A ballot paper will be considered valid if the name of one or two or several candidates is left undeleted. One may delete all the names from the ballot papers—this would mean that none of the candidates is favoured by the voter. If there is the name of only one candidate in the ballot paper, the voter should either leave it or delete it if he does not favour the candidate.

So the first elections of USSR people's deputies will be held on Sunday in accordance with the new electoral law which was adopted at the end of last year.

Commission's Preparations Viewed

LD2603094789 Moscow TASS in English 0920 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] Moscow March 26 TASS—By TASS Correspondent Valeriy Kiosa from the Central Electoral Commission:

All the members of the Central Electoral Commission are on duty at the House of Trade Unions in downtown Moscow at the electoral 'headquarters' on Sunday, the day of the election of USSR people's deputies.

The commission members are prepared if necessary to give any advice concerning the electoral procedure to the district commissions, of which there are 1,500 throughout the country. But, as a TASS correspondent was told, there have been no such requests so far. This confirms once again that local commissions prepared well for the election day.

The Central Electoral Commission switched to a round-the-clock schedule: The territory of the Soviet Union is vast and polling has already been completed in some places in the eastern areas of the country.

The first information on the outcome of elections will come in to the commission some time later following the counting of votes. A special office has already been prepared there to receive the electoral data. Lines of direct communication with each of the district electoral commissions have been readied.

Preliminary returns will be reported by telegraph but the only official document certifying the results of the polling will be the protocols of electoral commissions.

The new electoral law gives the Central Electoral Commission ten days to sum up the results of the elections throughout the Soviet Union.

As far as the results of polling in each district are concerned, they are expected to be published in the local press not later than March 28.

'Anticonstitutional Ideas' Surface in Campaign

PM2603132189 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Mar 89 First Edition p 1

[Editorial: "We Vote for Restructuring. Elections of USSR People's Deputies Are Today"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] How different these elections are from the last ones! The streets are not full of slogans, familiar to the point of invisibility, calling on us to vote unanimously for the inviolable bloc ["of Communists and nonparty people": a Brezhnev-era slogan]. There is none of the familiar bustle at polling places among "responsible persons" whose sole concern is to put in a report at the prescribed hour—and the sooner the better—that the elections have been completed and 100 percent of the population took part in them. All those are attributes of the past. We voters are also very different from the way we were yesterday. Our civic character has changed together with the atmosphere in the country. We have become incomparably more active, more interested, and more principled with regard to society's problems.

Though years will pass, the present election campaign will remain in the people's memory as one of the most important ones in the entire history of Soviet power. It is not easy to name or recall any other event around which public life has seethed so fiercely, on which so many expectations, aspirations, and hopes have been pinned, and which has been marked by such a degree of sincerity and involvement on the people's part. The preparations for the elections have literally exploded the activeness of the people and state institutions, have given a fillip to broad and free polemics, and have brought to the surface many urgent problems. Openness and commitment and the desire to get to the very essence of these acute problems are what primarily characterize the debates which have taken place and in which millions of people of various ages and professions have been involved. The discussion of the candidate deputies' platforms developed into a great all-union discussion and into an analysis of the work of party and other social organizations, organs of state power, and labor and military collectives to implement the practical tasks of restructuring. [passage omitted]

For the first time in the practice of our state building contenders for a deputy's mandate have been able to put forward election programs of their own. Most of these were based on the ideas embodied in the CPSU Central Committee address. The party platform, which embraces all the urgent problems of our society—economic, social, national, ecological—and contains a whole package of comprehensively substantiated and coordinated measures to solve them, has shown yet again that the CPSU is really the vanguard and leading force of society. It intends to march unswervingly along the path of restructuring and to ensure the renewal of our socialist society via its comprehensive democratization, radical economic reform, the revival of the soviets' power, and the formation of a rule-of-law state.

The preparations for today's elections have been a "road-test" of the new electoral law. There is no point now in speaking of its merits and shortcomings—we would like to believe that there will be a serious discussion of this at the Congress of People's Deputies. But it is impossible to omit to mention that the election campaign was often complicated by the clash between new approaches and obsolete stereotypes and by some people's understanding of democracy and glasnost as total license and indiscipline. There were instances when the election rostrum was used to uphold personal or group interests or to propagandize anticonstitutional ideas and where certain informal associations and groups, taking refuge behind slogans in support of restructuring, attempted to destabilize the sociopolitical atmosphere. Such instances are intolerable. Democracy cannot exist without law. Mindful of our responsibility for socialism, we must vigorously oppose those who take this path.

The people whose names feature on the ballot papers have special feelings today. Those of them who receive a vote of confidence from the people as a result of the poll will gain great powers together with their mandate as deputy. And at the same time they will assume a tremendous responsibility for their actions and decisions. A responsibility to the people, to the state, and to restructuring. It is important for their programs and promises to voters not to be forgotten as soon as election passions subside.

We pin special hopes on the people's deputies representing the Army and the Navy. Hopes of further enhancing the state's defense capability and the Armed Forces' combat readiness in conditions of their reduction and of the imparting of a more defensive orientation to their organizational structure in accordance with contemporary Soviet doctrine, hopes of success in the struggle to strengthen discipline and order, and hopes of the speediest solution of the social problems of the life of servicemen and members of their families.

Today is election day. Perhaps never before have elections been as serious and crucial for us and for our country's destiny. In voting for USSR people's deputies, we will be voting for restructuring!

Campaign Speeches at Luzhniki Meeting

LD2503182889 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1750 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] Moscow, 25 March (TASS)—TASS Special Correspondent Vladimir Itkin reports:

There was an electoral meeting today near the Central Lenin Stadium in Luzhniki. Members and non-members of the Communist Party, representatives of public organizations, and members of informal associations mounted a makeshift rostrum. In their evaluation of the course of the electoral campaign the speakers noted that today [as received] the people will take part in genuinely democratic elections to the supreme body of state power. It was stressed that the election law is certainly progressive and must be rigorously adhered to.

Yuriy Chernichenko, Valeriy Savitskiy, and Aleksey Yemelyanov, candidates in the relevant territorial constituencies of Moscow, noted that the explosion of political activity on the eve of the elections was aimed at the great goals set by restructuring.

Part of the speeches was devoted to Boris Yeltsin, a candidate for the Moscow city national-territorial constituency. The candidate himself was not at the meeting.

The poet Yevgeniy Yevtushenko stressed with his characteristic passion that strengthening the policy of glasnost is a guarantee against the repetition of the mistakes and crimes of the past.

The meeting was also addressed by Igor Orlov, chairman of the constituency election committee for the first Moscow city national-territorial constituency. He answered questions to do with how the election day would be conducted. He expressed his conviction that the elections would take place in accordance with the law, and recalled that in each constituency adherence to all the norms of the law will be monitored by representatives of work collectives and of the public, and by candidates' agents. He also announced that counting of votes would be completed by the morning of 27 March.

Vlasov Campaign Address in Rostov

PM2403170189 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Mar 89 Second Edition p 2

[TASS report: "Depending on the Experience of the Masses"]

[Text] Rostov-na-Donu, 23 Mar—Every day of restructuring attests to the genuine revolution in Soviet people's consciousness. A revolution which has brought to life an upsurge in personal initiative, creativity and a breakthrough to nonstereotyped, unexpected, bold thinking, decisions, and actions. The radical economic reform and the reform of the political system being implemented within the country are also geared toward this. People's increased sense of mastery and labor collectives' growing independence and responsibility are having an increasingly marked effect on the results of economic development. The Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] has succeeded in halting the decline in the growth rates of national income and in achieving indicators at the planned level last year. Mean annual growth rates for labor productivity have risen, the decline in return on capital has slowed, and the rate of turnover of material resources has improved.

However, much more must be done than was planned and than has already been done. The present election campaign has become a real public review of the forces of restructuring and a rostrum for a businesslike and principled discussion of the ways and methods of further developing the processes of renewal. This was confirmed by a meeting today between A.V. Vlasov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers, and USSR candidate deputy for Rostov National-Territorial Okrug, and the voters.

The meeting was opened by Z.P. Yeremenko, chairman of the okrug electoral commission and grinder at the "Rostselmash" Production Association.

A.V. Vlasov delivered a speech to the gathering.

He noted the upsurge in social activeness among the oblast's working people and the fact that they are not indifferent to how things are shaping up in the state and the republic. We have every reason today for saying that Soviet people have begun to hold their heads up high and have acquired a sense of dignity and civic responsibility, the speaker said. Summing up his meetings and discussions on Rostov territory, the chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers pointed out that they were mainly taken up with reflections on the paths and destiny of restructuring. Naturally, he continued, the question of my election platform cropped up frequently. I would like to emphasize that it is fundamentally based on the positions expounded in the Central Committee's January Appeal to the Party and the Soviet People. The CPSU election platform is a strict, considered, and profoundly realistic document. It contains the following fundamental provision: Everything that the party has outlined will be implemented if every Communist and every Soviet person is loyal to restructuring and if we all devote our labor, collective thought, and collective will to serving restructuring.

The speaker particularly stressed that the party's election program is firmly based on the gains it has already attained in the course of restructuring. The first and main thing here is the unprecedented upsurge of democratism and of the broadest glasnost, he continued. Its gains, undoubtedly, include the easing of the threat of war and the strengthening of international security. The new political thinking has already made it possible to find bold and innovative approaches to solving many key problems and create conditions for a gradual warming of the world's political climate. Quite understandably, this will make it possible to channel considerable resources into further galvanizing our social policy. A policy which centers on man as the object of and protagonist in the process of renewal.

Then the speaker briefly analyzed the main results of the republic's economic development over the last 3 years. It was noted here that restructuring has revealed and, in a number of cases, also exacerbated many social issues. The most important of these is still the provision of food for the country's population. In this connection he shared his thoughts connected with the implementation of the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee March (1989) Plenum. The underlying purpose of these decisions is to restore the peasant as master on the land through radical transformations in economic relations. The requisite conditions are now being created for independence, enterprise, and initiative. The lease is a crucial link in the restructuring of the agro-industrial complex. It is lease relations that can most fully incorporate personal interests into the development of social production and thus uncover the tremendous potential of various forms of economic activity. It is important to do everything to convince people in practical terms of the eminent effectiveness of the new economic relations.

Then A.V. Vlasov dwelt on questions of the radical restructuring of the management system in the agro-industrial complex, the technical equipping of all agro-industrial complex sectors, and new approaches to the social development of the countryside. It is important to gradually enhance the appeal and prestige of the whole tenor of peasant life. It is not a matter of urbanizing the countryside but of bringing it more closely into line with urban standards as regards the level of technical equipment and municipal services.

People, the speaker went on to say, are raising the following question with increasing exactingness: When will there be an abundant supply of the promised high-quality goods in the stores? The hidden price increase and the "erosion" of the cheap range of products provoke particular alarm. There is only one way out here—to increase production of goods. A large-scale modern production base for group "B" industry must be created first to achieve this. At the same time it is important to bring internal reserves into play in all areas in order to build up commodity resources.

The quest for reserves is also the main aspect of resolving the housing problem. It is a question of making fuller use of construction industry enterprises' capacities, developing housing construction cooperatives, and, especially, of developing individual construction.

To conclude the discussion of urgent problems to do with people's most vital needs, the speaker drew attention to the content of the work of all establishments and enterprises on which the state of people's work, living, and recreational conditions, their mood, and moral and physical health depend. One must be blunt and say that restructuring has still not reached many of our services and offices, and some people have obviously forgotten the meaning of law and order and responsibility to the people, he then said. Analysis of economic development in the first 3 years of the 5-year plan has made it possible to detect problems on whose solution economic development today directly depends. Will we be able to stabilize the economy and impart the necessary dynamism to it? I am referring to material and financial imbalances and bad management. A special program has now been elaborated at union level to financially improve the economy and enhance money circulation within the country. The introduction of a rigorous economy drive affects all economic sectors, all union republics and regions, and every labor collective. We must seek out even the slightest opportunities in literally all areas to improve our finances, lessen production costs, and reduce unproductive expenditure.

One must bear in mind that it is planned that the package of measures to enhance money circulation and improve finances is to be implemented on the basis of further deepening the radical economic reform. The reform's task is to shape the kind of economic management mechanism that would create powerful incentives for increasing labor productivity, boosting output quality, and resource saving.

The new year is extremely crucial for the establishment of the new economic mechanism. All economic sectors are transferring to principles of economic accountability [khozraschet] and self-financing. It is important to take into consideration the negative as well as the positive elements that have emerged during work under the new conditions. We must rely here on our experience of introducing the lease contract.

A.V. Vlasov went on to say: While developing and intensifying economically accountable relations within the main tier—the mainstream area of economic reform—we must take the next step in developing principles of self-management and self-financing. I am talking about extending these principles to the sphere of territorial economic activity. Transferring union republics and regions to principles of self-management and self-financing will require considerable economic, legal, and organizational work. Questions of shaping a system of state and economic management at kray, oblast, city, and rayon level have assumed particular topicality today. We must, in particular, find the optimum organizational structure for executive committees [ispolkoms] and sort out the Glavpeu [expansion unknown] and the Territorial Production Associations, the latter having dual subordination. We must also create a new mechanism for relations between local soviets and executive and administrative organs.

I would like to stress that any breaches of the Laws on the State Enterprise and the Cooperative System are inadmissible during the work of fine-tuning the economic management mechanism. Many breaches of this nature are still being committed in the course of economic reform—both at central and at local level. The reasons for this are well known. Increased independence for labor collectives and the affirmation of self-management principles are inflicting increasingly perceptible blows on the administrative system. Naturally, this provokes resistance on the part of those who are accustomed to issue edicts and who will not accept the new methods of leadership and do not want to part with the privileges of having the final say with absolutely everything. Life has convinced us that democratization at association and enterprise level will not produce the desired effect without a radical change in the managerial apparatus' style of activity. We have set ourselves the top-priority task of combating bureaucratism and sharply shifting the center of gravity to the practical work of implementing adopted resolutions and fostering in cadres a spirit of professionalism and utmost responsibility. The peculiar nature of the present time consists in persistently building up and generalizing bit by bit the experience which alone will enable us to find the correct means of resolving the problems that arise in the course of fine-tuning the mechanism of practical economic activity.

The times require us to resolutely change the very approaches to questions of the socioeconomic development of the republic and each of its regions. It is above all important to overcome freeloading sentiments, consumerism, and the habit of expecting someone else to resolve everything for us. I must stress that the shift from an omnipotent administrative system to absolute power for the people by no means signifies a relaxation in the role of the center. The party advocates democratic centralism, which is equally far-removed from both bureaucratic centralism and petty bourgeois anarchy. That is the cornerstone of the course we have adopted of consolidating the socialist state system and establishing the dominion of law in society.

The supreme interests of the motherland today require unity of will and unity of action from all our society. In this connection we return over and over to Lenin's ideas that democracy is a state that acknowledges the subordination of the minority to the majority and that the transition to a new system is an extremely complex process and firm state authority is needed to ease this transition. I think that these ideas are acquiring particular significance for the present, most crucial phase of restructuring. Under conditions of broad glasnost we have already in many respects done away with ostentatious unanimity, which was used to conceal major failures and mistakes in the economy and the deformation of public morality. However, are some people going to the other extreme today in a noble rush of revelations? Something seems to have happened with these people's sight; it is as if colors have gotten mixed up and even white areas invariably are seen as black. I am referring to attempts at wholesale disparagement of the past and irresponsible calls to smash and rehash everything indiscriminately. On the wave of criticism of the shortcomings, some people are reaching the point of saying that alternative political institutions are needed for the improvement of society. Yet they seem to forget that it was none other than the party that elaborated and—I would even say—suffered tribulations to bring into being the concept of restructuring, which has won the people's total support.

It is easy to guess that attempts to sneak in political pluralism in the guise of pluralism of opinion are essentially directed against restructuring. The main thing now is to make progress and broaden and deepen the constructive work of implementing the practical tasks of restructuring.

In this difficult work, A.V. Vlasov said in conclusion, we are inspired by the lofty pure revolutionary ideals and socialist values that have stood fast and not faded despite all that they have endured, and they beckon us onward.

A.I. Dovtsov, lathe operator at the Millerovskiy Metallurgical Equipment Plant named for Gavrilov; Ye.I. Yudin, foreman at Matveyevo-Kurganskiy Rayon's Highway Repair and Construction Administration; N.P. Teslya, chairman of Oblivskiy Rayon soviet executive committee [rayispolkom]; N.V. Pereverzeva, chief instructor at Peschanokopskiy rayon's "Put Lenina" Collective Farm [kolkhoz]; Yu.A. Peskov, general director of "Rostselmash" Production Association; and D.A. Privalov, fitter and assembler at Rostov's Helicopter Production Association; pointed out in their speeches that increasing Soviet people's well-being is the pivotal point of the party's election program. It was said that the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee March (1989) Plenum, which provided scope for the development of lease relations in the countryside, will make it possible to organically combine public and personal interests and will facilitate the most speedy resolution of the food problem. The need to broaden economic and social transformations through accelerating scientific and technical progress, improving the economic mechanism, and reinforcing the soviets' sovereignty was stressed.

Vlasov Continues Rostov Meetings

LD2403233189 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 24 Mar 89

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Meetings between voters and Comrade Vlasov are going on in Rostov Oblast. [screen caption: Reportage by N. Chebotarev and I. Sviridov]

Today, Aleksandr Vladimirovich Vlasov visited Novocherkassk, the major industrial center of the Don, and he had an interesting meeting with the work force of the local sewing factory. [video shows Vlasov entering workshop with group of officials, talking to woman operating machinery; other women working at sewing machines shown]

It seems that the enterprise lives in a different unusual dimension for us, particularly if one takes into account that this is a sewing factory, and that it belongs to light industry, still considered to be secondary. Take a look—automation reigns here. [video shows man operating desktop computer]

The women—and they make up virtually the whole workforce here—talked largely about how they are working easily and productively. Unfortunately, it has to be noted that the factory's equipment is completely imported. After the factory was modernized, the quality of output rose to the highest order, and if the Novocherkassk sewing industry workers have problems today they are connected with the inadequate quality of raw materials. Nonetheless the work force hopes that the time is not far off when these dresses, and women's clothes here with the Novocherkassk label, will appear in the shops of Prague, Vienna, and maybe Paris. It is precisely these problems, the problems of entering onto the international market, that were central in the conversation between Aleksandr Vladimirovich Vlasov and the specialists and workers of the factory. [video shows woman operating automated equipment; Vlasov watching women iron clothing; racks of finished clothing; Vlasov looking at modern computer equipment].

By the way, Comrade Vlasov touched on the same problems at a meeting with specialists from the agro-industrial combine, Askay. This is a young enterprise; it is only just gaining momentum. About 60 farms and processing factories have joined together to form the combine. Over 2 years their profitability has almost doubled. The output of the combine is in great demand among the residents of Rostov. This footage was filmed in a direct-sales shop. Unfortunately, there are few such shops as yet, and lines form here. Aleksandr Vladimirovich Vlasov set the agro-industrial complex experts of Aksay the task of not only feeding the town of Rostov with its 1 million population in the very next few years, but also of producing output of higher quality, and of greater variety, more cheaply. The combine does have such a possibility. [video shows Vlasov in office with group of men; film cuts to scenes in busy food shop]

Solovyev Addresses Leningrad Voters

PM2403143189 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Mar 89 Second Edition p 2

[TASS report: "Social Guidelines for Restructuring"]

[Text] Leningrad, 23 Mar—The renowned Nevskaya Zastava District. Its history is the history of the revolutionary struggle of Petersburg's proletariat. Vladimir Ilich Lenin held his first Marxist worker study groups here. The names of Ilich's comrades-in-arms—Babushkin, Shalgunov, and the Gribakins—have been immortalized in the names of the area's boulevards and streets. Such industrial giants as the "Zavod Bolshevika," "Zvezda," and V.I. Lenin "Nevskaya Zavod" associations, the "Rabochiy" factory, and the Thaelmann Fine and Industrial Cloth Combine are concentrated here today.... The enterprises of the Nevskaya Zastava District produce automobiles, instruments, more than 230 types of apparatus, and diverse consumer goods. Approximately 500,000 people live in the area, which has sprawled out along both banks of the Neva. In effect it constitutes an entire city, whose representatives also gathered today at the "Nevskiy" Palace of Culture to meet Yu.F. Solovyev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of Leningrad Oblast Party Committee [obkom], who is the candidate USSR people's deputy for Nevskiy Territorial Electoral Okrug No 55.

People in Nevskiy Rayon know their candidate deputy well. He has met labor collectives and visited new construction areas, hospitals, and stores. When answering questions, Yu.F. Solovyev has not evaded discussion of acute problems linked with working conditions in production, housing provision, and transport, trade, and consumer services. A businesslike and concrete discussion took place today at a meeting with voters on how to implement the ideas of restructuring and render them a palpable reality of our time.

The meeting was opened by F.S. Alekseyev, chairman of the Nevskiy Rayon Soviet Executive Committee [rayispolkom].

B.G. Konovalov, tuner at the "Zvezda" association; A.N. Mogilnyy, general director of the Thaelmann Fine and Industrial Cloth Combine; G.V. Zubkovskaya, director of School No 513; F.Ya. Ovechkin, veteran of war and labor, and others who spoke at the meeting gave mandates to the candidate deputy. They spoke of the topical economic, social, and environmental problems worrying Leningraders.

Yu.F. Solovyev delivered a speech to the gathering.

The current election campaign, he pointed out, is another major step in the implementation of the political reform mapped out by the 19th all-union party conference. In its Appeal to the Party and the Soviet People, the CPSU Central Committee clearly expressed its election platform. The main substance of this program is the development and deepening of restructuring processes and concern for the development of the social sphere, and to increase Soviet people's prosperity.

As a Communist and a Soviet person, I have an optimistic view of the future and I believe in restructuring. The main thing is to pool the efforts of the party and the people. Then any difficulties will be overcome and the targets that have been outlined will be achieved—of that I am firmly convinced. We are all learning to work in a new fashion today. It is important that the party sees all the diversity of the processes under way in the country, analyzes them in depth, and seeks and finds ways to overcome the braking mechanism.

The success of restructuring depends in many respects on the economy, the speaker went on to say. It is now very important to reinforce the ideas proclaimed by the party with real substance. It is inadmissible for real work and action to be supplanted by vacuous verbiage. Let us examine objectively the situation that has taken shape in the Leningrad region's economy. In the current 5-year plan it has achieved steady acceleration. The average annual rates of growth of industrial labor productivity have increased by 70 percent and the decline in the return on capital has slowed by a factor of nearly 3. More than 80 percent of the output subject to certification produced in a leading sector—machine building—bears the State Seal of Quality, more than one-third of the most important articles are up to world standards, and there has been a 100-percent increase in the equipment renewal index. For the first time in the last 10 years there was an absolute reduction of 8,000 units in the total technological equipment stock (previously, to the contrary, it had been increasing to approximately 25,000-30,000 units). The standard of contractual discipline has increased, labor growth rates have increased, and profits have risen.

These are the real results of restructuring. Of course, the state acceptance service organized at enterprises and the implementation of the "Intensification-90" program have played a positive role here. However, let us not forget that there are low-profitability and even unprofitable enterprises in the region. Some leaders are in no hurry to take full advantage of the rights to economic independence that they have obtained. Moreover, there are also leaders who are sincerely convinced that leadership should be centralized.

The first intersectorial state associations "Tekhnokhim" and "Energomash" have already been set up in Leningrad, working freely without ministerial diktat and without rigid ties to the plan. Not everything is working out right at present, and opinions are still at odds over these associations. But practice confirms the correctness of the chosen path. The question of creating a new major construction organization in the city, which has been named the "Construction Committee," is now being studied. One would like the emergence of this organization to ensure that it will become profitable to carry out rapid and cheap construction.

Liberation from administrative and departmental shackles will help to fully incorporate in restructuring processes the vast intellectual and creative potential of our scientists, specialists, and engineering and technical workers, revive the best traditions of our working class, and blaze a broad trail for displaying initiative and socialist enterprise. Only then will the development of the economic complex assume the requisite dynamism and make it possible to create a reliable foundation for broad social transformations. The economy should be geared toward man so that people's vital needs can be met in the immediate future. At the same time we must get attuned to painstaking work to overcome the accretions of the past, such as the ingrained habit of some of our cadres in all life's situations to wait for instructions from above, and the parasitical sentiments which have proved persistent.

Dwelling on the problems of developing democracy, Yu.F. Solovyev pointed out that restructuring is meeting with resistance both from leaders who are accustomed to administrative-edict management methods and also from the leaders of certain informal public organizations, who are aspiring to the role of sole champions of freedom and glasnost. They transform pluralism of opinions into the expression of their own opinion alone and the complete refusal to accept any other viewpoints.

The Leningrad CPSU Obkom and its first secretary now have many critics, the speaker continued. For instance, what price certain of the speeches at the recent so-called forum of Leningrad's democratic public? "The mouthpiece of conservative forces," "political intriguers who discredit party policy," and "knights of stagnation"—these were by no means the strongest phrases directed at us from the lexicon of the ultimate custodians of truth. The outburst of indignation on their part was provoked by the party obkom's resolution on measures to counter attempts by certain antisocialist self-motivated formations to set up structures in opposition to the CPSU. They proclaimed it to be "ideological pressure." My response is as follows: Democracy is not anarchy and total permissiveness. Rights and freedoms are inseparable from obligations to society and to the law. The party has found the strength to shoulder the very heavy burden of responsibility for the past and has managed to stir the country to restructuring. Confident of the correctness of the action it has initiated, it will not abandon this course.

I met in the Smolnyy with a group of representatives of informal organizations. In the course of a lengthy conversation with them I got the impression that we have more points of contact than fundamental differences. Our aim is to consolidate all healthy forces on the platform of the 19th all-union party conference rather than confrontation. I can state in all responsibility that any constructive initiative will be accepted. For instance, we are offering all manner of support to the public initiative aimed at participating in the work of reconstructing and restoring the city's historical center.

Working people's growing political maturity is seen as the main factor. The influence of soapbox democracy is increasingly less tangible, especially in working collectives, and a sincere desire to help restructuring and smash the barriers in its way is increasingly palpable. This was manifested fully at the election meetings and conferences, which were notable for people's high exactingness and commitment to forming a really effective body of deputies with nonstandard thought patterns, ready to resolutely resist stagnant tendencies in society and actively promote the revolutionary renewal of our life.

Yu.F. Solovyev went on to dwell on specific areas in the activity of the Leningrad party organization designed to resolve topical tasks of improving Leningraders' living conditions. Everything that affects the interests of the population must be resolved rapidly and effectively without bureaucratic procrastination, he said. The scale of state actions, however significant and weighty they may be, must not push into the background the everyday cares of the great city's vital activity. Restructuring will not gather momentum if it is only influenced from above, without perceptible changes in the provision of housing and the improvement of trade, consumer, and transport services being achieved in each specific rayon. This is the party obkom stance and it is mine, too, as first secretary of the obkom and as candidate USSR people's deputy.

Major capital investments have now been channeled into the modernization and retooling of light and food industry enterprises. Volumes of housing construction are rising, including through the use of the own-resources method and with the involvement of the youth housing complex. A transition is being effected to comprehensive construction of new apartment blocks. All the requisite sociocultural and consumer facilities are commissioned simultaneously with the housing. This year four urban planning and construction complexes will be commissioned, and another five in 1990. A clear program for increasing the oblast's agricultural output has been elaborated. However, it will not be possible to fulfill everything within the scheduled timeframes by any means. Too great a gamut of range of problems has to be resolved all at once. A certain shortage of resources and an inability to make full use of the advantages of the new conditions of economic activity are also taking their toll.

During my visits to enterprises and organizations and my meetings with people, I saw for myself on every occasion how many tasks require priority resolution. I am talking about serious imbalances and shortcomings in the social infrastructure. Questions of the organization of leisure time and environmental protection are acute. I think, in particular, that opportunities must be sought to offer young people financial and credit support in obtaining education and a profession, and in creating the material base for the young family. We need a specific program to drastically reduce the use of female labor in heavy and dangerous operations and also in night work.

Yu.F. Solovyev dwelt on ecological questions. In particular, he pointed out, the situation whereby Leningrad, which ostensibly has an everlasting water supply from the vast stocks of the Ladoga, is threatened with the real danger of being left without drinking water. Many of the city's enterprises discharge industrial effluent into the Neva virtually untreated. It has been decided to resolutely combat this, all the way to halting production.

The election of USSR people's deputies is a major political landmark of restructuring, the speaker said in conclusion. In the 4 years that have elapsed since that memorable April of 1985, the party has been firmly implementing the course of revolutionary transformations in society and profound democratic, political, and socioeconomic change. No one will undermine our conviction as to the attainability of the aims we have set ourselves. Leningraders recognize their high degree of responsibility for the results of this large-scale constructive work.

Yu.F. Solovyev answered numerous questions from the participants in the meeting.

Deputies Elected From Public Organizations

Komsomol Plenum Elects Deputies

PM2003104589 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 18 Mar 89 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Information Report on Sixth Komsomol Central Committee Plenum"]

[Text] The Sixth Komsomol Central Committee Plenum was held in Moscow 17 March to examine the following questions:

1. Elections of USSR people's deputies from the All-Union Lenin Komsomol.

2. On the mandate for USSR people's deputies elected from the Komsomol.

3. On the Fundamentals of Cooperation Between the Komsomol Central Committee and the Group of USSR People's Deputies Elected from the Komsomol.

4. On information from the "Youth Law" temporary creative youth collective on progress in work on the draft USSR Law on State Youth Policy in the USSR.

Shortly beforehand, from 14 through 16 March, the candidate USSR people's deputies from the Komsomol had a meeting in Moscow with the plenum participants voting in the elections. During January through March candidate USSR people's deputies from the Komsomol have had meetings in Krasnoyarsk, Minsk, Tashkent, Tbilisi, Tolyatti, and Cheboksary with Komsomol members and young people. More than half the candidates participated in them.

At the plenum N. Prokhorov, chairman of the Electoral Commission for Elections of USSR People's Deputies from the Komsomol, delivered the report on the first item.

Then a vote took place. Precisely 75 USSR people's deputies from the Komsomol were elected. A list of them will be published.

Komsomol Central Committee Secretary N. Paltsev delivered a report on the second item.

The plenum adopted a mandate for the USSR people's deputies elected from the Komsomol.

V. Zyukin, chief of the Komsomol Central Committee Organizational Department, delivered a report on the third item.

D. Pollyyeva, leader of the "Youth Law" temporary creative youth collective of the Komsomol Central Committee Higher Komsomol School Scientific Research Center, delivered a report on the fourth item.

The Komsomol Central Committee plenum adopted corresponding resolutions on the questions discussed.

Organizational questions were examined at the plenum.

The plenum released N. Dolgushkin from his duties as secretary and member of the Bureau of the Komsomol Central Committee in connection with a reassignment to the CPSU Central Committee apparatus.

The plenum released L. Shvetsova from her duties as secretary and member of the Bureau of the Komsomol Central Committee in connection with a reassignment to the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium Secretariat.

The plenum elected Komsomol Central Committee Bureau Members V. Zyukin and S. Smirnov as secretaries of the Komsomol Central Committee.

The plenum released V. Gurin, who previously worked as first secretary of the Belorussian Komsomol Central Committee, from his duties as member of the All-Union Komsomol Central Committee Bureau in connection with a transfer to party work.

The plenum released S. Romanov, who previously worked as first secretary of the Leningrad Komsomol Oblast Committee, from his duties as member of the All-Union Komsomol Central Committee Bureau at his personal request and in connection with a reassignment.

The plenum released G. Seleznev, who previously worked as chief editor of KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, from his duties as member of the Komsomol Central Committee Bureau in connection with a transfer to other journalistic work.

The plenum promoted G. Akopyan, first secretary of the Armenian Komsomol Central Committee, and V. Fronin, chief editor of KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, from candidate to full membership of the All-Union Komsomol Central Committee Bureau.

The plenum elected Yu. Burchakov, first secretary of the Leningrad Komsomol Oblast Committee, a member of the All-Union Komsomol Central Committee Bureau.

Participating in the plenum's work were Yu.G. Oshlakov, chief of a sector of the CPSU Central Committee Party Building and Cadre Work Department; A.V. Fedulova, deputy chairman of the Central Electoral Commission for Elections of USSR People's Deputies; first and second secretaries of union republic Komsomol Central Committees; first secretaries of Komsomol kray and oblast committees; assistant chiefs of political directorates and political departments of branches and categories of the Armed Forces, districts, groups of forces, and fleets for Komsomol work; and leaders of All-Union Komsomol Central Committee departments and subdepartments, central youth mass media, and public formations under the Komsomol Central Committee who are not members of Komsomol central elected organs.

With this the plenum concluded its work.

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* Komsomol Commission Chairman at Plenum

18000636 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 18 Mar 89 p 1, 2

["Abridged version" of speech by N. Prokhorov, chairman of the electoral commission for elections of USSR people's deputies from the Komsomol: "In Keeping With the Law"]

[Text] In organizing its work the commission relied on equal conditions granted to all candidates for deputies for conducting election campaigns, strict observance of the requirements of the USSR law, and constant information for the Komsomol [All-Union Leninist Communist Youth League] organizations and the youth concerning its activity.

The electoral commission held a total of seven meetings. From 19 December through 15 March the Komsomol Central Committee [CC] had a reception room for the electoral commission which was always staffed according to a schedule by commission members who are officials of the Komsomol CC. During this period the commission received more than 500 telegrams and 400 letters.

The majority of communications addressed to the electoral commission are in support of one or another candidate for USSR people's deputies from the Komsomol and contain an evaluation of the situation in the Komsomol.

Many of the letters give concrete suggestions for the draft of the Komsomol election platform and requests which cannot be ignored. Thus one cannot read without agitation the letter signed by 48 young people disabled since childhood and their parents in which they ask that the attention of the country's management agencies be directed to the needs and problems of invalids.

More than 1,500 letters with various content included suggestions and requests directed to candidates for people's deputies during their meetings with youth. They basically pertained to political, legal, socioeconomic, and ecological problems of our society. Attention was also paid to questions of forming the youth state policy, education, maternity, childhood, and international relations.

The agents of the candidates for deputies rendered them significant assistance in conducting the election campaign. Upon application of candidates the electoral commission registered 750 people as agents.

The election campaign for the majority of candidates for USSR people's deputies was dynamic and filled with meetings with the Komsomol and youth.

Komsomol members of the Avtovaz association came out with an interesting initiative by using the newspaper KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA to invite candidates for people's deputies to their meeting at the end of

January of this year. The invitation was accepted by 13 candidates for people's deputies or their agents. During the course of the meeting the candidates spoke to the youth in the shops of the association and the rayons of the city of Tolyatti, answered questions asked on the "Direct Line" telephone, and held a discussion on the draft of the Komsomol election platform. The only shortcoming of the meeting was that the representation of participants in the voting at the 6th Plenum of the Komsomol CC was too small—only three people.

This shortcoming was overcome at the regional meetings of candidates for USSR people's deputies from the Komsomol, which during February-March were held in the cities of Cheboksary, Minsk, Krasnoyarsk, Tashkent, and Tbilisi. During the course of the regional meetings conditions were created for the candidates to speak to the electors and discussion forms of work were used. All this made it possible for members of the Komsomol central election agencies and others voting in the elections to juxtapose the viewpoints of the candidates and to compare their competence, readiness for work in the highest state agency of authority, and their ability to express and defend the interests of the Lenin Komsomol and youth as a whole.

At practically all of these meetings candidates spoke to youth in labor and training collectives.

Taking into account the fact that the regional meetings present a real possibility of fighting for the vote, the candidates' interest in them grew from meeting to meeting. Thus while at the first one, in Tolyatti, there were 13 candidates present, at the last one, in Tbilisi, there were 35. The regional meetings, the two special discussions that were held in Moscow with the participation of sections of the Komsomol CC and, finally, our last 3-day meeting on the eve of the plenum will help participants in the voting to make a correct and well-substantiated selection.

The entire complex of youth mass media was faced with the most important task of publicizing the participation of Komsomol committees in the elections of people's deputies. This theme was consistently reflected on the pages of KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA. Under the column heading "Our Candidate" the newspaper acted as a kind of "agent" for a number of leaders who are popular among youth, people with initiative and creativity, and it helped to introduce into the awareness of youth the idea that the people who should become deputies should be primarily those who are active participants in restructuring, people who can think and who have militant qualities.

The elucidation of the election campaign in the weekly SOBESEDNIK did not begin actively until February. But with the first materials printed under the heading "For Power in the Soviets!" it became clear that the journalists are sincerely trying to sort out the mechanism of the election struggle, are boldly expressing their personal viewpoints, and are making it possible for young candidates for deputy positions and their agents to express themselves.

Each week over the air one can hear a special program entitled "The Elections and Youth." It includes reports on the meetings for nomination of candidates for people's deputies from the Komsomol and the permanent feature "Candidate for deputy at the 'Youth' microphone."

The main editorial staff of television programs for youth in the initial stage actively engaged in the work for publicizing the election campaign. A special program was devoted to the 5th Plenum of the Komsomol CC. A total of 15 candidates for people's deputies spoke on television during January-February.

Among the shortcomings in the coverage of the election campaign one must include that fact that fairly frequently in the newspapers, on radio, and on television there was material about the same candidates for deputy. There was not enough flexibility in the coverage of regional meetings of deputy candidates.

It should be noted that the Komsomol CC and the electoral commission received reports on certain deputy candidates which expressed doubts about the expediency of their election.

Thus the electoral commission received 11 communications regarding the candidate for people's deputy from the Komsomol, Aleksandr Mokretsov, a student at Perm State Medical Institute.

In a collective letter from workers of the Perm city first aid station where he is working now, combining this with training in the institute, they discussed Mokretsov's violations of labor discipline. A verification of the facts that were presented revealed that there had been violations of labor discipline by Aleksandr Mokretsov.

The electoral commission received an excerpt from the minutes of the meeting of the party organization of the Ivanovo territorial production association "Ivanovoavtotrans," in which doubts are expressed concerning the expediency of electing the director of the Ivanovo passenger automotive transportation enterprise No 2 Sergey Zvonov to be a USSR people's deputy.

The electoral commission asked that the situation be straightened out by the Ivanovo Komsomol obkom, which reported that this communication was the subject of investigation at a conference of the labor collective of the taxi fleet held on 10 February. The delegates to the conference expressed disagreement with the decision of the party meeting of the staff of the "Ivanovoavtotran"'s association and said that the opinion of the meeting was not objective. The accusations that the young manager had disrupted the enterprise were unfair.

The collective of the taxi fleet sent a letter to the electoral commission which confirmed the suggestion to elect Comrade Zvonov as USSR people's deputy from the Komsomol.

A group of workers from the Kostomukshkskiy ore enriching combine of the Karelian ASSR thinks that Vladimir Savatin, a fitter from this enterprise, is not worthy of being a candidate for USSR people's deputy from the Komsomol. It says in a telegram that Vladimir has had past violations of labor discipline, does not have enough authority in the enterprise, and does not have the qualities necessary for a USSR people's deputy.

An inspection confirmed the cases of violation of labor discipline by Savatin.

A statement sent to the electoral commission asserts that Viktor Mironenko is not being persistent in rectifying violations committed in 1984-85 during the distribution of housing in the Higher Komsomol School under the Komsomol CC. The electoral commission informs us that, in the first place, Comrade Mironenko was not working on the staff of the Komsomol CC at the time; in the second place, numerous statements regarding these issues were considered repeatedly over the course of the past several years in the sections of the CPSU CC, the party gorkom and raykom, and at meetings of the Secretariat of the Komsomol CC. The necessary measures were taken. In a number of letters the authors express doubts that the candidates for deputy have the necessary moral, business, and political qualities. Such letters have arrived concerning Sergey Karaganov, the director of the secondary vocational and technical school No 6 in Okhinskiy Rayon, Sakhalin Oblast; Yevgeniy Chekanov, the editor of the newspaper YUNOST, the organ of the Yaroslav Komsomol obkom; Sergey Tsyplyayev, scientific secretary of the State Optical Institute imeni S. I. Vavilov in Leningrad; Aleksandr Vaykov, first secretary of the Surgut Komsomol gorkom in Tyumen Oblast; Nikolay Denisov, a machine operator of the Borba Kolkhoz in Gorkiy Oblast; Svetlana Rotar, a milking machine operator of the Moldova Kolkhoz in the MSSR; Igor Vecherov, an engineer of the design bureau of Miass in Chelyabinsk Oblast; Rimantas Ruzas, a senior laboratory assistant of the Kaunas botanical garden; and Vladimir Shamov, junior scientific associate of the Khabarovsk comprehensive scientific research institute.

A verification of the facts presented in these letters was carried out by the Komsomol kraykoms and obkoms, members of the electoral commission, and workers of the Komsomol CC, mainly involving travel to the local areas.

Having considered the results of the verifications at its meeting, the electoral commission established that the facts presented in the reports do not correspond to reality and in the majority of cases show a prejudiced, unobjective attitude on the part of the authors of these communications toward individual candidates for USSR people's deputies.

During the election campaign four candidates for deputy took advantage of the right stipulated in article 41 of the USSR Law on Elections of USSR People's Deputies and announced the withdrawal of their candidacies.

Thus the electoral commission received statements from Mikhail Kazimirov, the director of the Iultinskiy ore enriching combine in Magadan Oblast and Aleksandr Tumanenko, deputy chief for political work of the internal affairs division of the ispolkom of the Pritobolnyy Rayon soviet of people's deputies in Kurgan Oblast in which they requested that their candidacies be withdrawn from consideration.

Candidate for people's deputy Gennadiy Orekhov, a rigger of the Pavlograd specialized administration No 575 of the "Dneprosantekhmontazh" trust also took advantage of the right to have his name withdrawn from the voting.

A similar application for withdrawal of his candidacy was also submitted to the electoral commission by candidate for deputy Aleksandr Rodionov, a machine operator of a locomotive depot in the Mordovian ASSR.

We are reporting that as a result of our consideration of the applications of Comrades Orekhov, Tumanenko, Rodionov, and Kazimirov, the electoral commission is granting their requests and has approved a new text of the electoral bulletin which includes 98 names of candidates for USSR people's deputies from the Komsomol.

Thus, having attentively analyzed the course of the election campaign and the participation in it of candidates for USSR people's deputies, the commission came to the conclusion that all the requirements stipulated by the USSR Law on Elections of USSR People's Deputies have been met. The electoral commission thinks that after conducting a preliminary campaign the participants in the plenum will be able to make their selections in voting with more awareness and a sense of high responsibility.

Plenum of Women's Councils Deputies

*PM2303102189 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
22 Mar 89 Second Edition p 2*

[TASS report: "Mood for Action"]

[Excerpts] Women's problems should be the problems of all society and should be resolved at state level—this was the parting shot that Z.K. Pukhova, chairman of the Soviet Women's Committee, addressed to the people's deputies from the women's councils elected 21 March at an enlarged plenum of the committee. Representatives of the fair sex have been given 75 seats—convincing proof of the recognition of their political and social role. [passage omitted]

A.P. Biryukova, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; A.A. Nizovtseva, deputy chairman of the CPSU Central Auditing Commission Bureau; and V.S. Shevchenko, chairman of the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, took part in the work of the plenum.

Cultural Bodies Elect Deputies

PM2703152789 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 22 Mar 89 p 1

[Roundup of reports on election results, first by G. Pantiyelev, others unattributed, under the general headline: "750 Seats Awarded to Public Organizations"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted]

...10 Seats to the USSR Union of Composers

The following composers were elected USSR people's deputies at an enlarged plenum of the USSR Union of Composers: V. Laurushas, E. Mirzoyan, K. Moldobasanov, A. Petrov, Ye. Stankovich, E. Tamberg, T. Khrennikov, S. Tsintsadze, R. Shchedrin, and A. Eshpay.

It is essential to ensure fulfillment of resolutions that have already been passed but are not operative (for example, the construction of 40 concert halls) and the adoption of resolutions on state subsidies to develop musical culture.

...10 Seats to USSR Union of Artists

The election of USSR people's deputies from the USSR Union of Artists took place at the All-Union Conference of Artists recently completed in Moscow. After impassioned discussion prior to voting (16 candidates contending for 10 seats) A. Vasnetsov, D. Skulme, O. Savostyuk, and others were elected deputies. T. Salakhov and V. Sidorov did not gain the requisite number of votes.

But the election of people's deputies from the USSR Union of Artists did not stop there. Repeat elections will soon be held. There are still three nominations for two seats.

...5 Seats to USSR Academy of Arts

The Academy of Arts has named its representatives for the USSR Congress of People's Deputies. They are B. Ugarov, Ye. Rozanov, I. Zarin, A. Mylnikov, and L. Golovnitskiy. [passage omitted]

23 Mar Politburo Session Proceedings Reported

LD2403203689 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 24 Mar 89

[Text] A session of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee which took place on 23 March examined practical questions proceeding from the decisions of the March 1989 Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee and determined concrete tasks of party, local soviet, and economic management bodies for their realization. The Central Committee Politburo discussed the proposal of the USSR Council of Ministers for some changes in the system and amounts of taxation of the population which would promote the principle of social justice. It was deemed expedient to begin a tax reform, with the goal of transition to a universal income tax, reducing taxes on the wages of low-paid groups in the population, and increasing taxes for those categories of the working people with high incomes. Specialists and leaders of general economic departments, as well as Comrades Shalayev, Kudryavtsev, Abalkin, Aganbegyan, Primakov, and others took part in the Politburo preparations and discussions on this question. A draft on changes in the system and amounts of taxation of the population is to be published in the press for discussion by the public.

The session discussed the course of the realization of the programs for designing and producing computer technology resources. General and chief designers, and the heads of a number of enterprises and organizations and scientific centers, took part in the discussion. It was noted that the questions of developing, making, and applying such resources are being decided in a more systematic and vigorous way, with consideration of the growing requirements of the country and the achievements of science. This has enabled a start to be made on tackling such vital problems as the introduction of information technology in the country, including the creation of up-to-date super computers, personal computers, and software systems, and has enabled the computerization of the education system to begin.

At the same time, they noted the need to accelerate the work on this theme and to implement it as a package, while considering the longer term. A shortage of computer technology resources—particularly of personal computers and peripheral equipment—is still being felt acutely in the national economy, and there are faults in the organization of mass production of such technology and in doing the necessary scientific groundwork. The Central Committee Politburo drew the attention of the heads of a number of ministries and departments to faults in fulfilling the programs that have been outlined, and required that they be corrected as soon as possible.

The Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee approved the results of Comrade Gorbachev's conversation and Comrade Ryzhkov's talks with Nemeth, member of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party [MSZMP] Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Hungarian People's Republic. It was confirmed once more during these talks that the CPSU and the MSZMP take an identical approach to the renewal of socialism, carrying out its practical tasks in accordance with the specific conditions of their own countries. Measures were decided to implement the agreements which were reached in respect to further deepening of the economic cooperation between the USSR and the Hungarian People's Republic on the basis of preferential use of new and nontraditional types of contacts.

The Politburo considered the results of the conversation of Comrades Gorbachev, Medvedev, and Yakovlev with Cunhal, general secretary of the Portuguese Communist Party. It was noted with satisfaction that the Portuguese Communists actively support the revolutionary restructuring of Soviet society, regarding it as the opening up of the enormous possibilities of socialism. The conversation again testified to a community of views between the CPSU and Portuguese Communist Party on the main problems of the contemporary world.

A report by Comrade Ligachev was heard on the results of his working visit to the CSSR. The unvarying comradely solidarity of the CPSU and the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia and the two countries' desire to use the potentials of Soviet-Czechoslovak cooperation and interaction in the interests of renewing socialism in our countries were noted. It was recommended that the CSSR's experience in developing the agro-industrial complex be utilized, that direct links be extended between Soviet and Czechoslovak enterprises in the agrarian sector, and that study trips be arranged for personnel in the mass professions, experts, and heads of collective farms and state farms.

The CPSU Central Committee Politburo considered the results of the work of the CPSU delegation, headed by Comrade Slyunkov, at a conference of secretaries of the central committees of communist and workers' parties of the CEMA member-countries on economic matters, held in Prague on 6-7 March 1989. It was noted that the frank exchange of views that took place at the conference on topical issues of social and economic development and cooperation among the CEMA countries had contributed to strengthening the unity of the fraternal parties' approaches with regard to assessing cooperation, the fundamental directions for its restructuring, and the new policy of socialist integration based on the widespread use of economic methods.

The importance of the proposals at the conference for specific steps for broad direct cooperation among national financial-autonomy units was stressed—something that presupposes the phased creation of preconditions for a unified market among interested CEMA countries.

Gorbachev Awards Medals to Ordzhonikidze Rescuers

LD2403201289 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 24 Mar 89

[From the "Vremya" newscast; passages in quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Today in the Kremlin Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev handed over Soviet orders and medals to the participants in the operation to save the 30 schoolchildren seized by a group of armed criminals in the town of Ordzhonikidze. [video shows Gorbachev entering room by Lukyanov and Menteshashvili]

[Gorbachev, to assembled award-winners] "Please sit down.

Esteemed comrades, dear friends: Today we are honoring people of duty and courage who, by their skilful and well-coordinated actions, helped to save the lives of 30 schoolchildren who were seized by a group of armed bandits.

"We all remember these dramatic events. When the first reports about the threat to the children and the woman teacher arrived at the center, headquarters were set up here. It took upon itself the general supervision of the action to render the criminals harmless. I admit that we had to experience difficult hours. After all, an unprecedented responsibility was at stake. Any error in the decisions made could have turned into a human tragedy. And, of course, tremendous responsibility came to be borne by those whose lot it became to deal directly with the criminals and to operate literally under the barrel of a gun.

"In the extreme conditions, showing self-control and self-possession, and without a single shot, people freed the hostages. Here you have a remarkable example of high professionalism and personal courage of our chekists, employees of the Committee for State Security and the Ministry of Internal Affairs, aviators, and diplomats.

"Comrades Yevgeniy Grigoryevich Sheremetyev, Valeriy Aleksandrovich Bochkov, and Vyacheslav Vasilyevich Balashov made a decisive contribution to the outcome of this operation. All of them have been awarded the Order of the Red Banner.

"I especially wish to note the courageous behavior of the teacher, Natalya Vladimirovna Yefimova, manifested by her during the saving of the children. It was largely thanks to her self-possession and resourcefulness that the crime was prevented. Today she will be presented with the Order For Personal Courage, bearing the number '1'.

"Nadezhda Georgiyevna Bulgakova, Margarita Georgiyevna Kirshina, and Lyubov Petrovna Kuzmenko, staff members at Mineralnyye Vody Airport, rendered great help in carrying out the operation. In this crucial moment they all displayed the noble traits of our women—a readiness to self-sacrifice, mercy, and responsiveness.

"If we ask today why it was that we succeeded in averting a disaster, then the answer should obviously be the following: First of all, it is the fundamental concept itself that human lives should be saved at any cost. I think this should become a law for us. No other considerations can ever be higher, no matter what the circumstances, than putting first the rescue of people in distress. This is doubly true where children are concerned.

"This case also shows yet again how necessary cooperation beween states is, in order to jointly raise an obstacle in the path of criminal activities threatening people's lives. Bandits and terrorists will stop hijacking aircraft if they know that not one country in the world will grant them refuge and that inescapable punishment will befall them. Combating international terrorism is becoming one of the acute global problems of the present day. Acting in the spirit of the new political thinking, the Soviet Union is ready to participate actively in this kind of international cooperation.

"Permit me, dear comrades, to sincerely congratulate you all on receiving awards of the homeland, and to wish you success in your work and personal happiness. And permit me to present these awards to you." [applause]

[Announcer] The Order of the Red Banner was conferred upon Vyacheslav Vasilyevich Balashov, deputy air squadron commander; Major Valeriy Aleksandrovich Bochkov; and Colonel Yevgeniy Grigoriyevich Shermetyev. [video shows Gorbachev presenting awards to the men as they are named]

[Sheremetyev] "I see this award as recognition by the party and the state of the necessity and usefulness of the work done by the Cheka servicemen. I would like to assure you that we Chekists will continue to stand guard over our homeland's state security, to stand guard over and to further our restructuring. Thank you once again."

[Gorbachev, shaking Sheremetyev's hand] "Thank you."

[Announcer] The Order of the Labor Red Banner was awarded to Militia Colonel (Teymuraz Dzhatagazovich Batagov); Aircraft Commander Aleksandr Vasilyevich Bozhkov; Colonel Gennadiy Nikolayevich Zaytsev; Georgiy Ivanovich Martirosov, head of the consular group of the USSR foreign ministry in Israel; and Lieutenant General Vitaliy Ivanovich Ponomarev. [video shows Gorbachev presenting awards to the above as each is named]

The For Personal Courage Order is presented to Natalya Vladimorovna Yefimova, teacher at secondary school No 42 in the town of Ordzhonikidze. [video shows Gorbachev presenting her with the award]

[Yefimova] "That whole experience is now in the past, of course, but we shall never forget those December days that begin in our town and then continued in Mineralnyye Vody on land and in the air, keeping us in a state of alarm for 3 days. I'd like to say a big thank you to all who took part in the operation, to those who, through their courage and high level of professionalism, carried out their duty—a duty that ranks as a feat. Many thanks to you. Thank you."

[Gorbachev] "Thank you for everything. There's just one thing I'd like to say, though: We felt keenly everything that you did on our behalf, everything that depended on us, but it was you who did it, and we are proud of that—all of you here."

[Yefimova] "Thank you."

[Announcer] For courage and valor displayed in rescuing the children and thwarting the criminal activities of the group of terrorists, the participants in the operation were also presented with Orders of the Friendship of the Peoples and of the Red Star; Orders of Honor and for Personal Courage; and medals for combat services and for labor prowess. [video shows Gorbachev presenting further awards and medals]

[Gorbachev] "Well, once again, I cordially congratulate all of you on your lofty awards, and once again I would like to say that we are proud of you. There are people here who represent our chekists, militia workers, our schools, civil aviation, and medics. Our people are often modest and quietly get on with their business, without any pretensions, but when necessary they remain steadfast like this to the end, to ensure that in this case...this grave and tragic case ended the way it did. I thank all of you for what you did, for the courage you displayed, and most of all for displaying our people's qualities. Congratulations. [applause] Let's go and have our photographs taken as a memento." [video shows Gorbachev and award-winners posing]

USSR Water Resources Minister Retires

LD2503164489 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] We have received an announcement from the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet. It says that Nikolay Fedorovich Vasilyev has been released from his duties as USSR minister of land reclamation and water resources in connection with his retirement.

Response to Chemical Accident Prevented Disaster

18200282 Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 24 Mar 89 p 2

[Article by I. Klimenko and R. Motskus (Ionava, Lithuanian SSR): "Accident Unprecedented and...Exemplary"]

[Text] **"The accident in Ionava was unprecedented. Unfortunately, we are again the first in the world to encounter such an immense quantity of chemical substances burning all at once. The situation is comparable to the unfortunate peat fires during the summer of 1972 near Moscow. How are they put out? What is used to put them out? Of course when locating storage facilities for ammonia and nitrophosphates next to one another, science should have come up with a model of the probability of their burning together.... As a professional, moreover, I must recognize that everyone acted professionally in Ionava. I would even say they acted in an exemplary manner, which is what made it possible to reduce to a minimum the severity of the consequences from such an accident."**

Thus at our request the accident in the Ionava Azot Association was evaluated by a specialist who is a representative of the USSR Ministry of Defense, Doctor of Chemical Sciences V. Malyshev. The deputy chief of the country's civil defense, Lieutenant General N. Dolgin, said briefly:

"Something happened that has never happened in the world before.... I think we have emerged from the situation honorably.

What is this, can we take pride in this.... We can take pride in the fact that in— Lithuanian Ionava (the namesake of the Russian Ivanovo), there is Felitsiya Kazakyavichene, up to now an undistinguished woman, a senior dispatcher at the Azot Association. She was the one at the control panel during that temporary break between the peaceful course of life and tragedy. She was the one who personally assumed the right and responsibility for the fate of hundreds of people. The responsibility not for fate but for life. Felitsiya Kazakyavichene did what she was supposed to do, what was prescribed by her job instructions. When she received information about the accident, she did not become confused, she did not lose her head, she did not run to get everybody to agree. (Incidentally, the general director was not there.) She immediately sounded the alarm, and gave an order to halt the plant and evacuate the collective. Let us recall that in Chernobyl such an order was not given until many hours after the explosion of the reactor. The tragedy has taught us something....

We can be proud of the fact that the Soviet Army has Lieutenant Colonel S. Grishanov. He was introduced to us as one of the active participants in cleaning up the accident before he took us up in the air to survey the place of the occurrence.

We can be proud (not the authors—the people) of the fact that among us was that most excellent chap, a professional fireman in the direct sense of the word, a candidate member of the party, Genrikh Narkevich. Yes, to our great misfortune, this is in the past tense. We did not have a chance to meet Genrikh. But we were in the immediate vicinity of the place where Genrikh died and saw this inferno with our own eyes.

All this is terrifying and bitter. Alas, it is not only a feeling of pride that fills us personally.

What happened in Ionava? A liquid ammonia storehouse blew up. This is a most complicated technical structure. It is a kind of immense thermos-refrigerator with a diameter of about 20 meters and it is more than 20 meters high. It is located on a unique reinforced concrete stand. For safety. In case ammonia leaks out. In general it is difficult for a nonspecialist to imagine such an immense barrel. Thousands of tons! It is even more difficult to imagine that such a giant flew up into the air and out over 50 meters!

"At the end of March," Minister N. Olshanskiy told us, "in conjunction with civil defense, we planned to conduct training for taking the proper steps in the event of such accidents. At one of our plants in Odessa. The local specialists unanimously stated that such an accident could not happen."

The minister cited this case as a corroboration of the unusual nature of the occurrence. Alas, this fact also characterizes the condition of discipline of enterprises of the Ministry of the Mineral Fertilizer Industry. It is still difficult to speak of the precise causes of the accident at Azot. The state commission has not yet drawn its conclusions. But the facts are these. The protection system that exists in the storage facility did not work. The explosion took place on an object that had just been inspected by specialists of the branch who confirmed the possibility of its safe operation. This is already the third accident over the past year. There were no victims from the preceding ones. This one took eight human lives....

Fortunately for the city, the ammonia ignited during the explosion. If the 7,000 tons had ended up in the Neris River and its tributary the Neman, which literally flows right alongside the enterprise, the misfortune would have turned into a disaster. But different complications arose immediately—the fire spread to the storehouse for nitrophosphates, which generally does not burn and is harmless in certain doses—but, like any chemical compound, under specific conditions it can break down into other, very dangerous components. These conditions were created by the fire. Above the warehouse, which contained more than 60 tons of fertilizer, there arose a large poisonous column.... Its plume extended over dozens of kilometers.

The people—more than 40,000 of them!—were immediately evacuated into safe zones. Residents of Ionava responded to the alarm twice. But the weather was on their side. The wind was blowing in the direction away from the city. Both central and republic agencies operated in a coordinated way. Or, as Colonel Malyshev said, their behavior was exemplary. Although well-wishers from abroad are trying to spread information to the effect that "representatives from the center" sometimes impeded the solutions to problems that arise. None of this corresponds to reality. And the multinational people of the republic need an objective view today as never before. Both view and voice. And here we should like to raise the journalists of the republic radio as an example for all "voices." Their work over the air during these troubling days deserves both recognition and approval from the population.

On Wednesday evening when we were leaving Ionava the radio announced: "The fire has been contained. The situation is under control." And we recalled the inferno. With the clouds of yellow smoke. With the whipped foam up to our waists. With the fire hoses slithering like snakes in the smoke and foam. Moving awkwardly through this mixture, the figures of the fire, gas, and mining emergency crews looked terrifying in their gas masks. And we were reminded of Colonel Ivan Abrosimovich Baranov. The head fireman of the republic. We recalled his terrifying monologue. We shall quote just a brief excerpt from it:

"I was in the fire service in'41 and all these years they have been promising to provide us with plenty of fire hoses, special clothing, special equipment, and special materials.... This is what they showed on television: the famous Fedorov aircraft was being equipped to be used as a clinic. We were not against that. But the firemen and the rescue workers have no special aircraft."

...The toxic plume over the Lithuanian land has disappeared, dissolved, dispersed. And again, another time, as after any accident, the plume of problems extending from Chernobyl to Ionava and beyond stands out in greater contrast and relief. Where will it make itself known next? In whom shall we take pride next?

We should like to take pride in people other than heroes as well....

Causes of Accident 'Still Unknown'

LD2503200189 Vilnius in English to North America 2300 GMT 23 Mar 89

[Text] Four days have past since the Ionava ecological disaster. Its causes are still unknown. Danger to the regions lying nearby the disaster area has subsided to a minimum. The fire in a warehouse where the nitro-fertilizers are stored is under control. The center of the chemical reaction has been broken up. The rest of the fireplace is cooled with water. The main thing now is to control huge amounts of water which is polluted. According to the latest reports, the Neris River is clean. However, the danger of it being polluted still exists. All the evacuated people have returned to Jonava and the nearby villages. Life continues as always. The territory of the fertilizer plants remains hazardous to people's health. Several hundred people continue rescue and decontamination work inside the Jonava production association with gasmasks and special fireproof clothes. Seven people have died. Their names have been announced; the youngest was 24, the oldest 52. Forty-seven people are hospitalized at the Kaunas hospital. Three people are seriously injured. No poisoning cases have been reported from the surrounding area. Well-water is being inspected carefully.

Miners Protest Wages, Working Conditions

LD2403174589 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1400 GMT 24 Mar 89

[Text] There has been a conflict in a work collective. Our correspondent Gennadiy Sytykh reports:

[Begin recording] [Sytykh] This state of emergency ["chepe," for chrezvychaynoye polozheniye] at the Tentekskiy Mine of Karagandaugol Association was totally unexpected for the management. A group of miners from the mining section No 4 refused to come to the surface after completing a regular shift, and presented their claims to the administration. This is a front-ranking section and a strong work collective, and suddenly a thing like this happens. But meanwhile, this conflict has been brewing for a long time. Here is the view on this of Valeriy Kirilin, director of the pit.

[Kirilin] They presented twelve points to the administration. Some of them are absolutely just points. Well, for example, to pay average earnings when transferring people from one coal face to another and when transferring people to assembly work. This question was generally envisaged in the code of labor laws. And so, we shall now be paying average wages. They asked the administration to introduce supplemental payments for night shifts of up to 40 percent of the salary. And now, involving the general economic services of the association, we shall, together with the mine, seek the differential. They make an interesting suggestion: to reduce the engineering and technical staff of the pit by 40 percent. And I asked: And why not by 60 percent? Well, there are simply too many of you. A list of staff members is now being drawn up, and so we can make a cut of another 10 percent.

But with regard to the main point of the workers' claim, well, due to the fact that they had been working under complex mining and geological conditions, they demanded that an additional payment be made to them from October until February. This demand is a just one; the economists are now calculating an estimate, and this will be somewhere on the order of R1,060. According to the general director, the question of additional payment for January has been decided. Because of all these bureaucratic delays, the people were underpaid in the month of February. This was either because the papers were lying somewhere in the pit (?committee office) or else the chief accountant had them, and when they finally arrived the estimators were unable to make the extra additions for that month. And so the question is this: whether to make Sunday holidays, as well as the professional holiday—miner's day—a general day off in the mine. The people have very little time with their families, little time for real leisure. We are endeavoring to move over to 2 days off per month. The mine will not lose by this, but the people will gain.

[Sytykh] For exactly 24 hours, the workers refused to leave the pit, but they weren't idle, and worked four shifts each in a row. During that time, the general director found the opportunity to meet urgently with the kollektiv, the mine administration displayed enviable activity, and the problems which had piled up for months were solved within 24 hours. It would appear that there just wasn't enough attention being paid to the miners' needs. What conclusions from this episode were made by the workers and the management?

[Unidentified worker] Psychologically and morally, our spirits have improved, and it turned out that we achieved something. We need more glasnost; we need to talk to the people more, to prevent this sort of thing from piling up. And we must discipline ourselves even more as to how to live in this democratic atmosphere. [end recording]

Georgians Demonstrate Against Minority Demands

AU2503214389 Paris AFP in English 2117 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] Moscow, March 25 (AFP)—Some 20,000 people demonstrated Saturday in Tbilisi, capital of Soviet Georgia, against a campaign in the autonomous republic of Abkhazskaya aimed at reducing Georgian control, Georgian sources said.

The gathering in a park, which was permitted by the authorities, was followed by a march to Georgian government headquarters where some 20 participants announced they were beginning a hunger strike, nationalist activist Zviad Gamsakhurdia told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE by telephone.

Last November, the steps of the government building were occupied by hundreds of hunger strikers backed by massive week-long nationalist demonstrations.

On March 18, several thousand of the Abkhazes, a minority Moslem people with an autonomous republic on the Black Sea coast, held a meeting in a small town of their region to demand that Moscow give them the status of a full republic, Mr. Gamsakhourdia said.

Their demand is seen by Georgians as supported by some leaders in Moscow accused of wanting to favour the aspirations of minority peoples to counter Georgian nationalism.

Latvia 'Day of Remembrance' for Repression Victims

LD2603214389 Riga in Latvian to Europe 2050 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] Today is the day of remembrance for the victims of Stalinist repression. The sorrow of people was expressed by the black ribbons of mourning, the frail spring flowers.

At noon an honor guard took its place by the eternal flame in the Brethren's Cemetery in remembrance of those worn out by torment in Siberia. The eternal flame fluttered. To the sound of mourning music the leaders of our republic, Janis Vagris, Anatolijs Gorbunovs, Ivars Kezbers, and others laid a wreath at the eternal flame. Representatives of public organizations, people of Riga, and guests laid flowers at the statue of Mother Latvia.

However, at this time of mourning people have not found a real peace for the soul, justice has not yet been fully restored: All the victims and their executioners have not yet been named. Stalinism in our consciousness is mercilessness and violence toward hundreds of thousands of innocent people. Have those times come to an end? Maybe. But poles with barbed wire, which fence off camps in the expanses of Siberia and the distant North, with already empty but still not collapsed huts, are standing. Thousands of people still worship Stalin and keep his portrait.

With a firm will to eradicate Stalinism, never more to allow its recurrence—in deep sorrow we are remembering victims, and we have firmly undertaken to deepen restructuring, to form a law-governed state.

A flow of people moves to the Brethren's Cemetery. They are not only older people who remember the Gulag camps. They are also many young people.

We are at times reproached, we hear that young people are indifferent, without hearts, says (?Karhi), head of propaganda department of the Riga Komsomol Committee. We are not able to imagine what our grandfathers endured. Perhaps the bitter irony is not quite at place here, and one would like to say that there is no need for someone to be boiled in the pot to understand what it is like in there.

The Komsomol members and young people of Riga today went to the Brethren's Cemetery to remember the innocent victims. They went with the idea that such tragedies must never again be repeated.

The road will not be an easy one. Therefore, the appeal to Soviet Latvia's inhabitants also states:

From the past to the future we are going through the present. May an honest reassessment, guided by a sense of responsibility, of the tragic events of the past give us strength in the present to look forward more securely to our socialist future and to become aware of the realities of the present day stern life. Toward unity, and not a single step backward.

Official Message Published

LD2603234889 Riga in Latvian to Europe 0830 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] For two years now, 25 March in Latvia has been a day of remembrance for the victims of Stalinism. In the memory of the people, the deportations of 25 March, 1949 have remained as a black mark, and time has not extinguished the memories in all these years—but for the second spring we have gone together, shoulder to shoulder, to the Mother Latvia in the Brethren's Cemetery.

Last year, representatives of the creative unions of Latvia writers and artists proposed organizing this instance of remembrance. This year the People's Front organized the solemn guard of honor in the Brethren's Cemetery, the remembrance procession from the Daugavmala to the Mother Latvia.

This year, too, the republic's party and government leaders participated in honoring the memory of the victims of the illegal deportations by Stalinism.

Yesterday a joint message by the Communist Party of Latvia Central Committee, the Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the Council of Ministers to Soviet Latvia's inhabitants was published in our republic's press, in which a stance against this act of illegality, which took place 40 years ago, has been expressed.

The message states:

On this day of remembrance of the tragedy of the entire people, bowing our heads to the memory of the dead and to what those alive have endured, we emphasize once more that mass deportations are illegal and condemnable; their victims have suffered without an investigation and a sentence by a court. We will do everything to see that every victim receives a feasible moral and material satisfaction, and to see that establishments and organizations will completely fulfill the decisions adopted by the republic's government.

On this day, feeling in our hearts the sharp pain for the injury, let us also understand that the destinies of many tens of thousands of people cannot be disentangled in one day. Therefore let us devote to this work society's continuous control and attention.

The memory of the victims of Stalinism was honored on this day, of course, not only at the Brethren's Cemetery in Riga, but in many places in Latvia, where for those deported this road to Golgotha began. At many places, from which the long echelons departed, flowers were left on the railway lines yesterday.

300,000 Attend Riga Reprisal Rally

LD2503155389 Moscow TASS in English 1502 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] Riga March 25 TASS—TASS Correspondent Karen Markaryan

Some 300,000 Latvians participated in a march and a rally here on Saturday to pay tribute to the memory of reprisal victims.

Forty years ago today over 40,000 residents of this Baltic Soviet republic were deported from their native land. The policy of reprisals conducted in the period of mass collectivisation in post-war Latvia resulted in heavy losses. Families, single persons, the aged and children were sent to the East: This was the tragic lot of the so-called Kulaks (well-to-do farmers).

An address by the Latvian Communist Party Central Committee, the Supreme Soviet and the Council of Ministers of the republic, published in the press today, says that the March 1949 deportations were part of lawless actions of those times. They reflected the process of distortion of the Leninist ideals of socialism and norms of humanism and democracy.

People in an endless stream marched Saturday to the memorial cemetery, to the sculpture of "Mother Latvia." The republic's leaders laid a wreath at its foot. Tens of thousands of people marched through Riga's central streets.

The epoch of glasnost (openness), perestroyka and spiritual renewal of Soviet society has made it possible to assess the past in a quite different way and to draw lessons for the sake of a just future. This aim is also behind numerous meetings of the population with historians, exhibitions showing documents of victims of reprisals, and the collection of donations to build a memorial monument.

"However, it is not enough to stage rallies and to build memorial monuments to restore justice," says Leonards Bartkevics, deputy chairman of the Latvian Council of Ministers. The republican government passed a resolution describing as groundless the deportations of people from Latvia in 1949, and rehabilitating them. Thousands of people were exonerated and their material losses are being reimbursed. Matters concerning their housing conditions and pensions are being settled.

Tallinn Meeting Marks Anniversary of Repressions

LD2503184289 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1801 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] Tallinn, 25 Mar (TASS)—A meeting in memory of victims of the repressions took place today at the Ulemiste railway station in Tallinn from where, on 25 March 1949, trains set out with thousands of innocent repressed residents of the republic—Estonians, Russians, Ukrainians, Latvians, Lithuanians, Belorussians, and representatives of other nationalities. The explanation given for the mass deportation at the time was that it was necessary to move out kulak families for the rapid implementation of collectivization in agriculture. However, as Ayn Soydla, first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of Estonia, noted in his speech today: "There is no justification for the mass repressions and deportations of 1940, 1941, 1949, and the 1950s. Neither economic, political nor military need dictated them."

In December 1988 the Estonian Supreme Soviet adopted a law on extrajudicial mass repressions in Soviet Estonia in the 1940s and 1950s, recognizing them as against the law and directed against humanity. In January of this year a decree was adopted on additional measures to restore social justice concerning the victims of the repressions and on eliminating the consequences of the illegality, and in February the republic's government adopted a decision which elaborated a procedure for compensating the damage caused to persons who had suffered from the extrajudicial mass repressions.

* Lithuanian Public Should Help Draft Constitution

18000667 Vilnius SOVETSKAYA LITVA in Russian 28 Feb 89 p 4

[Unattributed article]

[Text] Restructuring, which was begun on party initiative and whose policy and goals are presented in the documents of the 27th CPSU Congress and the 19th all-union party conference, has become a practical matter for the citizens of our republic as well. Imbued with ideas of renewal, it is with a feeling of high responsibility for the present and future of their region that residents of the republic are achieving essential changes in all the most important spheres of our life. An appreciable influence on this process will be exerted by the awakened self-awareness of the Lithuanian people and the growing belief in the idea that under the new conditions of democracy and a state ruled by law, Leninist principles of Soviet federation, understood as a voluntary union of sovereign republics, will be restored. It was also in this connection that the idea of creating a new constitution of the Lithuanian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] was advanced, for a radical reform of the political system is impossible without this.

Paying attention to the idea of the new political and legal thinking of the republic's population, the Presidium of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet on 22 July 1988 formed a work group for improving the constitution and republic legislation. This group was given the initial variant of the draft of the republic constitution developed on the initiative of the Lithuanian SSR Academy of Sciences. Taking into account this document and proposals from the public it prepared and on 11 November 1988 submitted a draft of the republic constitution to the Presidium of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet.

The Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet at the 10th session held on 17-18 November 1988 evaluated the draft of the republic constitution prepared by the work group and adopted the decree "On the Draft of the Lithuanian SSR Constitution." It was recognized that this variant of the draft of the constitution could serve as a basis for further work on it. A commission consisting of 59 deputies headed by the first secretary of the Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee, A. Brazauskas, was formed to prepare a draft of the republic constitution (Basic Law).

Paying attention to the circumstance that the development of such an important legal document is exceptionally responsible work, the commission worked both in groups and collegially, repeatedly discussing the edition of each article. It was assisted by legal experts and specialists in various areas of science and practical work in the republic. The draft of the republic constitution prepared by the deputy commission was submitted to the Presidium of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet. In publishing this document, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet by its decree establishes also how further work for its improvement will be organized.

The present draft gives a broader interpretation of the provisions regulating statehood and sovereignty of the republic, and it also envisions their constitutional guarantees.

The chapters of the draft in which the economic system, social development and culture, and the competence of higher agencies of state authority and management of the Lithuanian SSR are discussed are based on the concept of the republic's economic independence. It is suggested to assign as exclusively state property of the Lithuanian SSR its land, minerals, water, sea shelf, forests, and natural resources.

Taking into account the process of optimization of legal relations between the center and the republics that is taking place at the present time, certain articles of the draft were edited in the spirit of Leninist principles of Soviet federation. It is intended to actually reinforce the citizenship of the Lithuanian SSR, its content, and the policy for acquiring and losing it in the Law on Citizenship.

For purposes of strengthening the guarantees of the republic's sovereignty, the draft envisions arranging relations between the Lithuanian SSR and the USSR and other Soviet republics on the basis of the Agreement on the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. It is intended to state that the laws of the USSR and other acts of higher agencies of state authority and administrations of the USSR are in effect on the territory of the Lithuanian SSR if they do contradict the Constitution of the Lithuanian SSR and do not violate its sovereign rights, and the Council of Ministers is given the right to halt the effect on the republic territory of normative acts of the ministries and departments of the USSR in the event that they run counter to the interests and rights of the republic.

Taking into account the historical tradition and wishes of the republic community concerning the restoration of the glorious military path of the 16th Lithuanian Klaypeda Infantry Division, the draft envisions the creation under the policy established by law of national military formations of the Lithuanian SSR.

In keeping with the reform of the political system and the changes and additions to the USSR Constitution adopted at the session of the USSR Supreme Soviet on 1 December 1988, a new system and policy are established for electing representative agencies of state authority in the republic.

Certain provisions of the published draft do not correspond to the USSR Constitution currently in effect.

At the same time the USSR Constitution will also be improved during the process of restructuring. New provisions should be introduced in the development of international relations, and this pertains also to delimiting the competence of the Union and the republics. Moreover, the Presidium of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet, taking advantage of the right of legislative initiative granted by article 114 of the USSR Constitution, intends to submit to the USSR Supreme Soviet a proposal to make changes in the corresponding articles of the USSR Constitution. All this should be kept in mind when discussing the present draft of the Constitution.

The Presidium of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet expresses confidence that the republic community will participate actively in the discussion of the published draft of the constitution and will make remarks and suggestions regarding it.

Lithuanian Decree on Registering Social Groups

PM2303152389 Vilnius SOVETSKAYA LITVA in Russian 23 Feb 89 p 3

["Lithuanian Supreme Soviet Presidium Decree on Temporary Procedure for Registering Statutes of Citizens' Voluntary Associations"—SOVETSKAYA LITVA headline]

[Text] The Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium resolves:

1. Pending the adoption of laws on voluntary societies to establish the following procedure for registering the statutes of societies, organs of unsponsored social activities, other social organizations, their unions, and social movements formed on citizens' initiative (hereinafter called social organizations):

(1) Social organizations submit their statutes for registration within 1 month of their adoption at the constituent assembly, congress, or conference;

(2) Social organizations whose activity covers the republic's territory, and also organizations whose activity covers the territory of more than one rayon or city under republican jurisdiction, submit their statutes to the Lithuanian SSR Council of Ministers;

(3) Social organizations whose activity covers the territory of a rayon or city under republican jurisdiction (a rayon within a city) submit their statutes to the executive committee of the appropriate soviet of people's deputies;

(4) The statutes are submitted for registration in duplicate over the signature of the chairman of the social organization's leading or executive organ. A copy of the minutes of the constituent assembly, congress, or conference is appended to the statutes;

(5) The statutes must include the following:
the organization's aims and tasks;
the procedure for becoming a member and for ceasing to be a member;
the rights and obligations of members (participants in the social movement);
the structure;
the procedure for forming primary organizations;
the procedure for convening the congress (conference) or general meeting, and also their competence;
the procedure for electing leading organs and their competence;
the procedure for monitoring the leading organs' activity;

sources of funds and the procedure for their use;
the procedure for making changes and amendments to the statutes;
the procedure for ceasing activity.
The statutes can also include other questions of the organization and procedure of their activity;

(6) The organ registering the statutes examines them within 1 month of receipt. During examination of the statutes, it is established whether they conform to existing legislation. An agent of the social organization's leading or executive organ must participate in resolving the question of registering the statutes;

(7) The organ registering the statutes makes the decision to register them or to refuse registration, and this is reported in writing within 3 days of the adoption of the appropriate decision to the organization which submitted the statutes for registration. If registration of the statutes is refused, a specific normative act and the provision of it which is contravened by the statutes as submitted must be indicated.

(8) If registration of the statutes is refused by the soviet of people's deputies executive committee, an appeal against the decision can be lodged by the social organization within 1 month of its adoption with the Lithuanian SSR Council of Ministers, whose decision is final.

2. New social organizations formed before the entry into force of the present decree submit their statutes for registration within 1 month of the day of the decree's entry into force in accordance with the demands of paragraphs 2, 3, 4, and 5 of Article 1 of this decree.

3. If the social organization makes changes to its statutes by after their registration, they are subject to registration under the procedure specified by the present decree, and if the social organization deviates from the aims and tasks set out by its statutes, the organ which adopted the decision on registration is entitled to abolish the organization in question. An appeal against this decision can be made by the social organization in accordance with the procedure laid down in paragraph 8 of Article 1 of this decree.

[Signed] V. Astrauskas, chairman of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium

I. Guretskas, secretary of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium
Vilnius, 17 February 1989.

Leningrad 'Democratic Union' Rally Criticized

PM2403141589 Leningrad LENINGRADSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 12 Mar 89 p 3

[Report by I. Losev, A. Ozhegov, A. Potapenko, and I. Sidorov under the rubric "Conflict Situation": "What Happened Outside Kazan Cathedral?"]

[Text] This is "Cathedral-1," this is "Cathedral-1," report the situation....

The militia officer with the portable radio transmitter on his shoulder walked around the perimeter of the square in front of Kazan Cathedral. The clock showed 1100. Spectators gathered from the direction of Griboyedov canal at the metal barrier.

There was something to look at: Never before had we seen so many militiamen gathered in one place. At 1100 hours there were dozens of buses and yellow UAZ trucks, 1,200 militia workers, and over 300 volunteer militia members outside the cathedral. What had forced the city internal affairs administration to bring in such forces on a Sunday?

Despite the absence of permission from the Leningrad city soviet executive committee [gorispolkom] (and application for permission had been made), the "Democratic Union" of scandalous repute intended to hold a meeting here "to discuss the election platforms of the candidate people's deputies nominated by the Leningrad voters."

...The unusual situation attracts passers-by—an impressive crowd gathers. Those who had seen the meeting's "rehearsal" the day before also came here—on Saturday the Democratic Union members had already assembled near Kazan Cathedral, displayed slogans, and called those present to the unauthorized Sunday meeting....

The militiamen called on those assembled to disperse and warned of their responsibility to the law, suggesting that they take part in the election meeting at the "Lokomotiv" stadium taking place at that time. Leaflets signed by the "Democratic Union Party, Leningrad branch" were distributed in the crowd. Fulfilling their orders, the militiamen arrested the Democratic Union agitators and put them into buses. There were shouts and an angry rumble in the crowd.

Three Democratic Union members climbed the pedestal of the monument to M.I. Kutuzov and unfolded a banner reading: "CPSU: 6.7 percent of the population, 85 percent of the candidate deputies." The figure was correct, taken from a Central Electoral Commission report.... The old Russian tricolor flag was unfolded. "For the first time in 70 years our national banner is fluttering over this square," the speaker shouted hoarsely. Immediately, pointing at the militiamen, he said: "That's your democracy for you! Gendarmes! Fascists!" They tried to "wind up" the crowd to chant "fascists," but this did not succeed.

After 20 minutes the speakers were brought down from the pedestal. The lines of militiamen gradually pushed back the crowd. But the guardians of order stood for quite a while longer outside Kazan Cathedral, and arguing groups continued to gather for a long time—no one dispelled them.

The finale was not a new one. In response to the call to go to the building of the Kuybyshevskiy Rayon Internal Affairs Administration, several dozen participants in the meeting rushed to Krylov Alley. As a result 80 people were arrested outside Kazan Cathedral and in the alley, and of these 52 were arrested for violating the decree on the procedure for holding meetings and demonstrations and 28 for refusing to obey the authorities. When the issue was going to press, the court had examined only three cases. In two instances the violators were fined and the court decided to detain one of those arrested for 10 days. The examination of materials for the other cases will be completed within the next few days and we shall return to them again. Criminal proceedings have been brought against the three people who spoke from the Kutuzov monument—they are accused of malicious hooliganism.... Blasphemy is blasphemy....

Now about other facts. On that same day at approximately the same time absolutely open meetings were held in the city at which anyone who so desired could speak: at the S.M. Kirov Palace of Culture, the Ilich Palace of Culture, the "Lokomotiv" stadium, the central lecture hall, and the economics faculty of the Leningrad State University. Candidate deputies were here too. We particularly stress that anyone could come here and say whatever he wanted—during the period of the election struggle the law guarantees freedom of agitation and counteragitation.

Of course, the Democratic Union knew about these meetings (information is in general quite well-organized there). But its activists did not go there, although here no one would have prevented them from speaking on their favorite subjects—the multiparty system and the legalization of private ownership. We say this confidently, because the Democratic Union pickets at the "Bolsheviks' Avenue" subway station are not troubled: You may not like what the posters say, but the law is the law.... Nonetheless, the Democratic Union wanted come what may to hold a meeting outside Kazan Cathedral—"its own" meeting.

Why? The reply is suggested by the figure cited in the application to hold the meeting: Its organizers planned an attendance of 10,000. Inasmuch as the Democratic Union itself has no more than 100 members, it is perfectly clear that they were counting on attracting passers-by. This calculation was partly justified—the overwhelming majority of the crowd of 2,000 consisted of curious spectators.

Yes, but the law permits the free holding of meetings and gatherings during the election struggle, we hear you object. Why can people not gather on a Sunday outside Kazan Cathedral and freely discuss the most acute problem of the day? The law wasn't broken, was it?

Here is something that must be mentioned: At one point traffic along Nevskiy Avenue—the city's central artery—was completely blocked. What would have happened had it not been for the militia's actions? How far would the crowd have increased and what would have been the result? In general, can you imagine, for instance, the free holding of meetings on Red Square?

We do not intend to idealize the authorities' actions in connection with the "meeting" situation. As for the militia, we cannot understand how such forces could have allowed the desecration of a monument—it was perfectly clear that people would try to make use of the only high "spot." It also seems to us that it is time for the Leningrad gorispolkom to state clearly and precisely the architectural features and busy transport routes in whose vicinity any meetings are forbidden—simply out of safety considerations. On the other hand, considering the lessons of those days and the prospect of fall elections to the local soviets, it is probably necessary to specify the places in each rayon where election agitation and propaganda can be carried out absolutely freely. As is done, for instance, each Saturday in Petrogradskiy Rayon not far from the theater named for the Lenin All-Union Leninist Communist Youth League. Of course, in selecting these places we must be concerned about convenience for the voters—at the "Lokomotiv" stadium, for instance, those taking part in the meeting stood in dirty puddles....

But everything we have said has no bearing on the Democratic Union members' attempt to hold a meeting outside Kazan Cathedral. This is because, counter to their own statements, they had absolutely no intention of discussing the candidate deputies' election platforms—there were not even any attempts to conduct such a discussion. Everything came down to hoarse shouts from the pedestal.... The "party" activists now looking surprised ("How so? We only gathered to talk about the elections and we were taken to the militia.") knew perfectly well how it would all end. It is not for nothing that one of the Democratic Union leaders, V. Terekhov, came to the square in a quilted jacket, with a package in his hands, not concealing the fact that he was prepared for arrest. He even joked: "I'm too busy now, but we will have another talk in a couple of hours at the militia department...."

No, it was not a talk about the elections which the "Democratic Union" of scandalous renown needed. It needed one more scandal about which it could shout at every corner—and that is what they got. In the crowd we counted at least 10 video cameras—we suppose that the scenes of the arrest of the "party" activists will be shown on Western television channels. There will be "statements for the free press" and interviews with "Radio Liberty...." As always.

Let's learn to make a distinction: Here there is policy and here politics mongering that smacks of provocation. Yes, during the election campaign we have accumulated many mutual recriminations, and lessons must be drawn by everyone—the okrug commissions which organize this process, the party and soviet organs, and the public movements.

But those who led people to the Kazan Cathedral are acting outside the framework of socialist pluralism and are concerned with utterly different aims. Alas, it must be admitted that where the Democratic Union is, there there is provocation. What is it aimed at? Upon hearing on the lips of some comrades, even leading ones, the phrase "that is where democracy leads," we can understand that it is precisely the policy of democratization which the Democratic Union is opposing. It is discrediting the very idea of collaboration between different social forces and by its actions is rallying and activating conservative and extremist forces.

Young democracy is now under attack from the most diverse directions. On the same day, on Sunday, supporters of the notorious "Pamyat" movement tried to break up a discussion in the center of the friendship of the peoples of our country (in the S.M. Kirov Palace of Culture) with shouts about a "Jewish-Masonic plot"—they did not succeed. Demanding full freedom but in fact counting on something happening, the Democratic Union members assemble a meeting in the city center. These are all phenomena of the same order. Different slogans but the same phenomenon: an attempt to distract people from the real struggle for changes.

Democratization is a difficult business, and it is best to implement it in as calm an atmosphere as possible. Any confrontation artificially divides society, heats the atmosphere, and complicates this work.

Vlasov Chairs RSFSR Session on Housing

LD1803161989 Moscow TASS in English 1545 GMT 18 Mar 89

[Text] Moscow March 18 TASS—By TASS Correspondent Valeriy Kiosa: Apartment houses, hospitals and schools are becoming first-priority projects for builders of the Russian Federation. In the past three years alone expenditures on the construction of apartment houses and social and cultural facilities were increased by about one third in the republic to reach an impressive sum of 115 billion roubles a year.

The figures were cited on Saturday at a session of the presidium of the Council of Ministers of the Russian Federation, the biggest of the union republics. The session showed that the Russian Federation government was devoting special attention to the fulfilment of the housing construction programme and the development of the social sphere. It is not surprising, because the social re- orientation of the national economy is one of the main directions of the economic reform.

It envisages, among other things, the reduction of overstated expenditures on capital construction and the channelling of the released resources to the social sphere. Some 16 billion roubles were re-oriented in this way in the Russian Federation during the past three years. This means that millions of people improved their living conditions.

However, the session reflected a rather critical attitude of the republican government to what has been achieved. Its participants stated that the fulfilment of the housing problem had slowed down in the Russian Federation in 1988, that the vicious practices of turning over to customers buildings with a lot of defects are continuing, housing construction on a cooperative and individual basis is developing too slowly. The building materials industry of the Russian Federation fails to meet the growing demands of the construction complex.

Heads of a number of USSR construction ministries for whom the Russian Federation is the main sphere of operations were strongly criticised at the session. Complaints were made to them over the pace of construction of hospitals, schools and other social projects.

Summing up the results of the session, Aleksandr Vlasov, alternate member of the Politbureau of the Party Central Committee and head of the Russian Federation government, stressed the importance of the fulfilment of the whole range of programmes connected with the development of the republic's social sphere. The government decided to discuss this problem again several months later.

Azerbaijani Media, Party Officials Hold Meetings

NC2003091889 Baku Domestic Service in Azeri
0440 GMT 18 Mar 89

[From the republican press review]

[Text] The consultative meetings held for the leading workers of the Azerbaijan State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting and the leading editors of the city and rayon newspapers at the department of the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic Higher Party School, which improves the proficiency of the party, Soviet, and ideological cadres, have ended. Significant attention was focused on matters related to the Marxist-Leninist theory, the upgrading of the Soviet Union's socioeconomic development, the party's foreign policy strategy, and the reorganization of the work of the mass media organs and the communist parties in the light of the reconstruction course.

The reports in the republic's newspapers say that Zeynalov, secretary of the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee; Alimov, chief of the Azerbaijan Communist Party Ideology Department; Dashdamirov, chief of the State Legal Department [Devlet Hukuk Subesi]; Lieutenant General Kolesnikov, Military Commandant of the Baku City Special District; Major General (?Yetsin), professor of the USSR Internal Affairs Ministry Academy; and the leading workers of the republic's mass media, Komsomol and Soviet organs, [word indistinct] and the Academy of Sciences addressed the participants.

* Agricultural Functions Urged Changed in Azerbaijan

18240090 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
14 Mar 89 Morning Edition p 2

[Interview with First Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic Muzamil Imran ogly Abdullayev, by IZVESTIYA special correspondent I. Abakumov: "It Is Not Enough to Reduce GOSAGROPROM. Its Responsibilities Must Be Changed"; date, place not specified]

[Text] [Abakumov] More than 2 months have now passed since you were appointed first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and chairman of the republic Gosagroprom [State Agro-Industrial Committee]. Taking into account the foodstuffs situation and the mounting criticism of the agricultural department, I cannot make up my mind on whether to congratulate you or to express my compassion....

[Abdullayev] Do I look like I am lost?

[Abakumov] I would not say so. Besides, I was talking about something completely different. On the eve of our meeting, I reviewed IZVESTIYA archives and found that our newspaper has been following your life for quite a long time, approximately from the time when you became general director of the Khanlar Agro-Industrial Complex at age 30. Over a quite short period of time, its profits began to grow, not out of brandy casks, but mainly out of vegetable beds and table grapes. Later, you extricated from the debt hole a republic association with the insanely long name "Azerplodoovoshchvinogradprom." It appears that you were off to a good start, but here is a new appointment, high positions. At 47 years of age, this may not be too early. However, the customs of the bureaucratic apparatus of the Agroprom [Agro-Industrial Committee] are too far removed from the style of economic mutual relations which you could allow yourself to practice when working at the lower level. In other words, will you start "marching to the apparatus drummer?" After all, while absorbing the most enterprising people, the apparatus inexorably levels their thinking.

[Abdullayev] I would agree that this could have happened to me as well had the appointment been made several years ago. However, it is a different situation at present. The management pyramid in the republic is being dismantled, and in two directions at the same time, from the top and from the bottom. I believe that this is a major point, a necessary condition which makes it possible to count on the development of the reform not only in the Agroprom, but in the entire economy.

[Abakumov] If I may, could you dwell in somewhat more detail on why this countermovement is necessary.

[Abdullayev] In most instances, the development of economically accountable and lease relations proceeds under the close supervision and direction of the management apparatus. What is happening? In one document, people are called upon to assume more independence and responsibility, and another document restricts these rights. All kinds of "recommendations" are being issued which are convenient and understandable to management types alone. People are told that they are masters, and people believe it (incidentally, many do so for the last time—they remember collectivization!). However, it turns out that they are only being kept on a longer leash, and then temporarily, until the administration needs either the grain from the land renter's barn or his tractor for the "superior" purposes of large-scale production. The result of it is dramatic, and, at times, tragic.

At the kolkhoz [collective farm] and sovkhoz [state farm] level, it is the same situation in the fall, when the RAPO [Regional Agro-Industrial Association] begins to clean up the harvest. The [farm] chairmen also cannot stand up to the fiat unless they are united, or they will be crushed. It is even more difficult for several RAPOs to get together and argue with the oblast [echelon]. Therefore, the higher the level the less common sense is heard. Therefore, attempts to undermine the pyramid from below usually end up in it crippling with its weight the one who is undermining. Dismantling the pyramid simultaneously from the top relieves this weight considerably.

In addition, such countermovement greatly disrupts the unity of the apparatus; every "cog" of it is concerned primarily with defending itself rather than the guy in the next office. This is why I am sure that your apprehensions concerning the "levelling of thinking" will not be borne out. Since my knowledge of the republic pyramid of Agroprom is first-hand, I began to take it apart on the second day after my appointment.

[Abakumov] What did you start with? What have you been actually able to accomplish in 2 months?

[Abdullayev] Quite a lot. First of all, seven positions of deputy Agroprom chairmen were eliminated, and subsequently 19 deputy chiefs of main directorates, 135 supervisors of structural divisions with their apparatus, three chiefs of republic industrial associations, eight of their deputies.... I can go on enumerating for a long time. Overall, 1,820 positions which cost 5.6 million rubles a year have been eliminated since the beginning of the year. This is the beginning.

[Abakumov] Did you set out to fire them all, or just every second person? What is your criterion for selection, if any?

[Abdullayev] Of course, there is one. The large numbers of those reduced are not a sign of someone's personal extremism, but a result of sober and—let me stress that—collective appraisal of the situation in the agricultural sector of the republic. The situation in this sector is evaluated to be critical. The output of basic foodstuffs does not only fail to increase but even falls in comparison with the performance of [the entire] union, or the Transcaucasian republics. At present, 42.4 percent of the meat consumed is brought from Russia, the Baltic area, the Ukraine, as well as 32.9 percent of eggs. Other regions furnish 73.6 percent of milk, and virtually all butter—90.6 percent. These are bitter statistics, but they are true. It is also true that there are no justifications for the erstwhile subsidies for foodstuffs: that, supposedly, the exchange was made for cotton, vegetables, and other crops which do not grow in the northern areas of our country.

In the last 2 years, the plan for producing raw cotton has not been fulfilled. About 70 percent of rayons register vegetable yields of less than 100 quintals per hectare, as if we were not in the south, but rather at the Polar Circle. The yield of gardens in the social sector is one-third of that [in the gardens] of the populace. All of this occurs against the background of comfortable life of the gigantic Agroprom management apparatus which existed sort of on its own, not being tied in any economic way to the specific performance of branches. When we began to sort out the table of organization, our heads spun: foreign language teachers were in charge of animal husbandry work; architects, geologists, and simply someone's relatives held the positions of agronomists and technicians. In some instances, an entire directorate was created for some "very highly respected person." This, however, was the first layer of reductions, and not the most important one. We moved on to evaluate the operations of subdivisions, main directorates, firms, institutes, and ministries belonging to the Agroprom. This is more complicated because you have to deal with entire collectives firmly cemented by group interests rather than individuals. However, the principle of evaluation was the same: what has been contributed to the development of the sector? What are your plans for the future? In many places, answers to these questions were not forthcoming.

[Abakumov] That is to say, the office was simply "crossed out?" Is this not too drastic? After all, reductions may affect genuine professionals, especially in science, which, as is known, seldom produces returns right away.

[Abdullayev] We sought support exactly among professionals, separating them out from among the bulk of employees. There have always been, and still are, people in the know, but they are few. For example, in the central apparatus they turned out to be so [few] that all of them could be placed in one building. Previously, Gosagroprom was located in close to a dozen buildings. As far as the agricultural institutes which have not earned their keep are concerned, they are losing their status. Their most qualified employees are being transferred to experimental stations directly in sovkhozes and kolkhozes.

For example, this is what we have done with the Azerbaijani Research Institute of Grape Cultivation and Vine Production, which "gobbled up" 2.4 billion rubles in wages alone since 1977, but did not produce a single new variety of grapes or train a single doctor of sciences. Why should we fund this "miracle" when a similar institute in the Crimea brings considerably more benefits to our republic? So, out of 135 people, we are keeping only 10 to 12 in order to set up an economically accountable experimental station for grape production and processing.

[Abakumov] Where are the others to go? After all, the total of those reduced is above 2,000 already.

[Abdullayev] We tell all of those who have agricultural education: there are no farms or fields in Baku. Go to the farms, this is where they need your knowledge and experience. There are people who have already been taken in by kolkhozes and sovkhozes; some of them are heading leasing collectives. However, there are quite a few of those who are not sought after: their qualifications are poor. This cannot be helped; differentiation based on talents should proceed if we are to pursue the economic reform in earnest. We should be distinctly aware of the fact that this process is not going to be smooth. Looking for work when you are not used to working anymore.... In a word, we are not able to help everyone with job placement. However, such is the "social cost" of restructuring in the economy. Is this cruel? Yes. However, unless we manage to help those gifted and enterprising to ascent to the positions previously held by dull and self-conceited persons it will be worse yet, and the apathy of the toiler will become irreversible....

[Abakumov] However, reducing the management apparatus provides no immunity to its proliferation. The command system necessarily reproduces new officials. What guarantee do you have that the "tail of the dragon" will not grow again, and begin suffocating talent and initiative?

[Abdullayev] We do not conduct our reform only in a "surgical" manner. However, this is the main point for now: we should sever the chain of established connections by apparatchiks not only among themselves, but also with corrupt clans in the "shadow economy," which, according to some estimates, control approximately one-fifth of the national income in our republic. At the same time, we are creating foundations for the guarantees which you have mentioned. Even now there is a firm rule: an Agroprom employee does not manage but serves those who work on the land and on the farm. From now on, a kolkhoz chairman is not a petitioner but a customer in our house. His every request should be complied with. If they begin to "shuffle" someone around from desk to desk people know that the doors of my office and those of my deputies are always open, and there are no special appointments. However, there were complaints in the first 3 or 4 weeks only. We had to fire some people because they were slow. At present, such problems do not arise.

Certainly, there is nothing good about having to democratize the operation of the apparatus through administrative methods. However, you will have to agree that there are not any economic conditions for a change that severe in the functions of Gosagroprom either. However, our firm intention for as early as this season is to make the remuneration for most specialists contingent on the efficiency of recommendations, advice, and help they render to the farms. In other words, the efficiency of their work will be evaluated by the farmers. Then, the economic conditions will appear.

[Abakumov] What will Gosagroprom transform itself into in this event?

[Abdullayev] Our goal is to separate state functions from economic ones as much as possible. The latter will shift downward to the kolkhozes, sovkhozes, leasing collectives, and agricultural cooperatives as conditions for this are created. Are they not better judges of what, when, and how is to be done in order to ensure their own benefit? We will engage in purely state considerations: the strategy of developing the agro-industrial complex, social sphere, budget priorities in the sphere of supply, processing, provision of consulting services, and, mainly, procurement of foodstuffs for the needs of the republic and the country. Then we will indeed be able to consider trade in foodstuffs with other regions of our country on mutually beneficial terms. However, this is in the future, though not so remote. Thus far, we are involved in less spectacular matters: we are studying the issue of counting meat [consumption] per capita as meat only, rather than "with by-products and fats," of counting the grain in the barn after cleaning and drying rather than in the bunker of the combined harvester. Some people may not find this interesting; however, this is the only way to get rid of all kinds of illusions in foodstuffs production.

Incidentally, on the topic of grain: we will also liquidate the republic Ministry of Grain Products. This yoke on the neck of the farmer is costing us too much: first, you take your grain to them at the state price, and then you re-purchase it yet again at a sky-high price in the form of mixed feed. This is to say nothing about losses during reloading; however, this feed often contains sand and sawdust rather than calories for the cow. This is part of the reason why the milk yields are so poor. We will transfer mixed feed plants to our jurisdiction, make them cooperative enterprises of farms, and then things will move ahead faster and in a more honest manner, and there will be fewer losses.

[Abakumov] I wonder about the way in which you accomplished all of these reductions and liquidations. You are vigorously shaking the foundations of the administrative system, and nothing much happens. Could it be that there is not anybody there to check you?

[Abdullayev] I would not say so. Unpleasant conversations happen when unprepared [draft] resolutions are submitted to the Central Committee or Council of Ministers of the republic. However, when an idea is justified and thought through, then there are complete understanding and support. Work has become interesting....

[Abakumov] Maybe your republic does not need the union Agroprom since you are that independent.

[Abdullayev] I would say we do not need it in the present form. It would be better to deal with, say, the Commission for Foodstuffs of the Council of Ministers, if such were to be created. It would provide us with information on market conditions, on prices and orders for the season and the 5-year plan, on the demand for specific products, on foreign technologies, potential partners and profitable contracts. Of course, we would like to see professionals with the best qualifications on their staff, those who are able to provide accurate projections and any advice.

[Abakumov] You and I have thoroughly "destroyed" the pyramid from the top. What about breaking it from below? What are the realities and the prospects?

[Abdullayev] Let me begin with prospects. I think that the formation of independent economic structures instead of the liquidated republic associations will begin as early as this year. Let the sovkhozes and kolkhozes themselves determine what cooperation makes sense and for whom. As far as the formation of leasing cooperatives, family brigades, and other small-scale forms of organizing production is concerned, this is more complicated. The process is advancing slower than we would like to. People do not perceive complete guarantees of defense from the potential arbitrariness of local authorities. For as long as there is no law on leasing which would protect them we would attempt to protect them ourselves by assigning to them the land and means of production in the name of the Soviet power. I think that the fall, after something will have been done, will be a better time to respond to this question.

[Abakumov] Finally, what do you expect of the forthcoming CPSU Central Committee Plenum?

[Abdullayev] I will respond briefly: a triumph of common sense!

Azerbaijan Ideology Commission Holds Meeting

NC2003085489 Baku Domestic Service in Azeri
0440 GMT 15 Mar 89

[From the republican press review]

[Text] The newspapers inform their readers today about the meeting held by the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee Ideology [word indistinct] Commission. The meeting approved the commission's work plan for 1989. The plan calls for familiarizing the commission with the draft program which is being drawn up by the state for improving the learning, teaching, and propagation of the history of Azerbaijan, the effects of literature and fine arts on social processes which have been initiated in the republic, and other matters.

New Azerbaijani Education Minister Appointed

LD1903203389 Baku KOMMUNIST in Azeri
26 Feb 89 p 1

["Decree"]

[Excerpt] The Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet Presidium decrees to appoint Comrade Rafig Babash ogly Feyzullayev as minister of public education of the Azerbaijan SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic].

[Signed] S. Tatliyev, chairman of the Presidium of the Azerbaijan SSR Supreme Soviet
R. Kaziyeva, secretary of the Presidium of the Azerbaijan SSR Supreme Soviet.
City of Baku, 25 Feb 1989.

Comrade R.B. Feyzullayev was born in 1943. He is Azerbaijani and has been a member of the CPSU since 1968. [passage omitted]

Azerbaijan Presidium Changes Town Names

NC2003090289 Baku Domestic Service in Azeri
1700 GMT 18 Mar 89

[Text] Taking into consideration the wish of the people, the Azerbaijan SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet Presidium has decided to change the names of Zhdanov Town and Zhdanov Rayon to Beylagan Town and Beylagan Rayon. The decree in that regard will be published in the republic's newspapers tomorrow morning.

Discussion To Expand Official Use of Armenian

NC1803134789 Yerevan Domestic Service in Armenian 0525 GMT 18 Mar 89

[From the review of SOVETAKAN AYASTAN]

[Text] How to expand the use of the state language? How to obtain for it legal parity and obligatory use in all the domains without exception? What hinders its purposeful progress? How to make the public respect Armenian as a language so as to successfully achieve the [word indistinct] of the state language? Renowned critics, poets, and experts have expressed their views on these issues to the ARMENPRES reporter. This interview has been published under the title: "State Care for State Language".

Donated Foreign Funds Being Transferred to Armenia

NC1803112589 Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1630 GMT 17 Mar 89

[Text] The USSR Council of Ministers has advised the country's foreign trade bank to transfer the received foreign funds to the special account in its own branch in Yerevan for their purposeful use by the Armenian Council of Ministers.

According to 7 March 1989 figures, R 19.859 million in foreign financial assistance, including R 16.747 million on a free exchange basis, has been deposited in the USSR foreign trade bank account.

This sum, together with any future assistance to be received from Soviet and foreign organizations and individuals and the financial funds of the Soviet organizations, will be used for assisting the earthquake victims.

The USSR Council of Ministers has decided that the funds received in foreign currency for public organizations are being used in purposeful stages by the relevant organizations in concordance with the Armenian Council of Ministers.

Dushanbe Rally Organizers Cautioned

PM2703141389 Dushanbe KOMMUNIST TADZHIKISTANA in Russian 7 Mar 89 p 2

[Report by S. Krylov, Dushanbe City first deputy prosecutor and senior legal counselor: "Caution Issued to Organizers of Unauthorized Rally"]

[Text] The unauthorized rally held at midday 24 February on the capital's central square caused justified concern to residents. Despite the correct aims of this event, which in the main were the granting of official status to the Tajik language, the crowd of many hundreds of young people, chiefly students and schoolchildren, excited and practically uncontrollable, really threatened disorder, obstructed the normal operation of public transport for 2 hours, and diverted people during working time from their labor duties and studies.

This event caused special alarm in view of the recent hooligan gang activities by young people in the area of the "Tadzhikistan" cinema which resulted in the flagrant violation of public order and physical injury to many of the participants in these actions as well as to completely innocent citizens.

The organizers of this rally, who described it as a manifestation of democracy, clearly forgot the original meaning of this word, they forgot that democracy means literally the power of the people and that democracy presupposes first and foremost the unconditional safeguarding of the socialist rule of law and under no circumstances permits total license or disorders.

It is precisely for the purpose of ensuring law and order and public safety that the organization and holding of such events are regulated by the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium Decree "On the procedure for organizing and holding meetings, rallies, street processions, and demonstrations in the USSR," which establishes in particular that the organizers of rallies, meetings, or demonstrations must make a written application to hold such an event at least 10 days before its planned date.

The application must specify the aim, form, venue, itinerary, time, proposed number of participants, name, patronymic, and surname of the organizers, and their place of residence, work, or study. The soviet executive committee [ispolkom] examines the application and informs the organizers of the decision taken not less than 5 days before the planned date of the event. If the holding of the meeting, rally, or demonstration represents a threat to public order or to citizens' safety it may be banned by the soviet ispolkom [executive committee].

These legal requirements are binding and must be strictly observed. This is necessary for the preparation and creation of the conditions for staging such mass events, conditions aimed primarily at safeguarding public order and the safety of the population, including the rally participants themselves. Nevertheless, contrary to the requirements of the decree, the application to hold this particular rally was submitted to Dushanbe City Soviet Executive Committee [Gorispolkom] not 10 days but only 3 days in advance, with the result that the ispolkom was unable to examine the application in time and take the necessary measures to prepare for the rally. Furthermore, the application lacked information on the places of residence and work of the rally's organizers.

In this connection the ispolkom did not give permission for the rally to be held, and when officially informing the organizers of this told them to apply in good time and to observe the established procedure. However, the legitimate instructions of the organ of Soviet power were ignored and the rally went ahead without the ispolkom's permission, in a spontaneous manner, and without the proper preparation.

In view of the fact that these unlawful actions by the organizers of the rally could have had unpredictable consequences, the Dushanbe City Prosecutor's Office examined reports from the gorispolkom [city soviet executive committee] on the violation of the procedure for the organization and holding of such an event.

Rally organizers S. Mastonzod and B.I. Maksudov, who were summoned to the prosecutor's office, sent written explanations of the violations of the law that were committed, and as a result cautions were issued. At the same time they were warned that if such violations were repeated, they would be subject to administrative liability in accordance with the Tajik SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet Presidium Decree "On responsibility for the violation of the procedure for organizing and holding meetings, rallies, street processions, and demonstrations" dated 31 August 1988. Administrative liability is laid down by article 178 of the Tajik SSR Code on administrative violations of the law and carries a fine of up to R300 or, in exceptional circumstances, up to 15 days' administrative arrest.

In accordance with article 216 of the Tajik SSR Criminal Code, after the application of administrative penalties a breach of the procedure for the organization and holding of meetings, rallies, street processions, and demonstrations committed by the organizers of the event also carries criminal liability in the form of a fine of up to R2,000 or corrective labor for up to 1 year or loss of liberty for up to 6 months.

In a conversation, one of the rally's organizers acknowledged the unlawfulness of his actions and, when explaining them, rightly noted that we are all still only learning about democracy at the moment. However, you cannot experiment with public safety or jeopadize citizens' legal rights and interests. Even when learning about democracy other methods must be used—and they must be lawful.

New KGB Chief Appointed in Uzbekistan

LD1903203789 Tashkent SOVET UZBEKISTONI in Uzbeki 24 Feb 89 p 4

["Decree"]

[Text] The Uzbekistan Soviet Socialist Republic [UzSSR] Presidium decrees to appoint Comrade Anatoliy Serveyevich Morgasov as chairman of the UzSSR KGB.

[Signed] A. Romanovskiy, deputy chairman of the UzSSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

L. Bekkulbekova, secretary of the UzSSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

23 Feb 1989, city of Tashkent.

CPSU Meeting Held on Interethnic Relations

PM2303093389 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Mar 89 Second Edition p 2

[TASS report on 21 March conference at the CPSU Central Committee in preparation for the planned Central Committee plenum on interethnic relations; "Conference at the CPSU Central Committee"—PRAVDA headline]

[Text] In preparation for a plenary meeting on interethnic relations, the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party 21 March held a meeting of officials from the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet (Parliament), presidiums of the supreme soviets of the union and several autonomous republics, executive committees of local governing councils from some regions and autonomous regions, central law-enforcement ministries and departments, law research institutions and educational establishments.

The meeting was attended by functionaries from the Central Committees of several union republics and regional paty organizations.

The meeting considered issues of perfecting legislation in what concerns regulation of interethnic relations.

The participants held a substantive exchange of views on a broad range of problems related to various legal aspects of the consolidation and development of the Soviet socialist federation.

Proceeding from the interests of creating a powerful center and powerful republics, the meeting's participants examined specific proposals on delimiting the powers of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and of its constituent republics, expanding substantially the rights of the union republics and strengthening the legal status of the autonomous republics and regions and districts.

The participants in the meeting discussed issues related to the elaboration of juridical acts directed at securing a free development and equal use of the languages of the ethnic groups inhabiting the Soviet Union and of the Russian language as the means of interethnic communication.

The meeting considered basic directions in the perfection of legislation on citizenship. Speakers emphasized that the rights and duties of all Soviet citizens, irrespective of their domicile inside the Soviet Union, should be strictly observed and their uniformity guaranteed.

Problems of the juridical substantiation of the free national development of Soviet citizens living outside their national and state entities or having no such entities on Soviet territory were discussed in detail.

The participants in the meeting paid attention to the need for improving legislation to strengthen the protection of rights and personal liberties of citizens, irrespective of their nationality or race, and increasing responsibility for kindling ethnic enmity.

They set out a number of important proposals concerning the performance of new functions by the Council of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet and in connection with the formation of standing commissions on interethnic relations at soviets, or councils, of people's deputies.

It was stressed that the measures currently undertaken in order to provide a juridical basis for the party's policy in the field of perfecting interethnic relations should be mainly aimed at further consolidating the international unity and friendship of the ethnic groups living in the Soviet Union.

A.S. Pavlov, chief of the CPSU Central Committee State Legal Department, and T.N. Menteshashvili, secretary of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, took part in the work of the conference.

Internal Minister Appraises Crime Statistics

LD2403131489 Moscow TASS in English 1219 GMT 24 Mar 89

[Text] Moscow March 24 TASS—The Ministry of Internal Affairs of the USSR will shortly start issuing to the mass media complete data on crime in the country. This is pointed out in the interview given to the newspaper "NEDELYA" by Vadim Bakatin, the 52-year-old minister of internal affairs of the USSR, appointed last October.

Appraising the crime situation in the USSR, Vadim Bakatin said that it was much lower than in the United States, for instance. The number of crimes committed in the USSR reached 657 per 100 thousand of the population as against 5.5 thousand in the United States (according to 1987 data). The number of convicted persons per 100 thousand of the population is now approximately the same in both countries. Having praised the high technical standards and professionalism of the American police, the minister noted that "the reasons for the obviously unfavourable crime situation in the United States should be studied to avoid a repetition of the mistakes of others."

The minister displayed particular concern about the growing numbers of young criminals. Whereas in 1987 the number of convicted criminals aged up to 29 accounted for a half of the total, last year the figure increased to 55 per cent. Juvenile deliquency grew 11 per cent. This procss is typical for all the world.

Vadim Bakatin stressed that growing crime was a global phenomenon and that its level, even allowing for statistical flaws, was much lower in socialist countries than in states with a purely market economy. Nevertheless, crime is growing in the country. "The point is not that we are slow in taking counter measures. We have apparently not made sufficient progress yet in restructuring our socialist home according to new blueprints. Therefore, there is no ground for pessimism. But there is reason for alarm and food for thought," the minister said.

'Sharp' Criticism at Consumer Cooperative Congress

LD2103231889 Moscow TASS in English 1742 GMT 21 Mar 89

[Text] Moscow March 21 TASS—Never before have congresses of Soviet consumer cooperative organisations attended such fundamental issues as the current 12th congress. There is much talk here about practical equation of cooperative and state ownership, about equal distribution of consumer goods both among town- and countryfolk, about the spread of such new forms of management as lease-farming and co-production.

The following figures were cited at the congress: The number of producer cooperatives has increased by over 8,000 in the consumer cooperation system over the last year. The output of sausages and smoked products has increased in the consumer cooperation system, in which producer cooperatives have played not the least role. An increasingly greater number of families and teams of workers lease shops, cafes, and industrial plants belonging to consumer cooperative organisations. The standard of services here is, as a rule, higher. They turn in greater profit and, as a result, their employees have higher wages.

In their speeches delegates to the congress note that relapses of stagnation go side by side with what is new and progressive in consumer cooperative societies, and many bureaucratic directives are still in force. Umirzan Sarsenov, chairman of the Kazakh consumer cooperative societies (Centrosoyuz) that it does not give adequate assistance to republican consumer cooperatives and proposed altering its functions by extending greater latitude to local bodies.

Toktogul Chilebayev and Yuriy Marinichev, managers of consumer cooperative societies of Kirghizia, a central Asian republic, and the Moscow region, sharply criticized state committees, which are engaged in planning, materials and equipment supply and in giving guidance to the agro- industrial complex, which do not accomplish the tasks to supply the rural population with goods, which were set to them.

In general, one may say that the current congress is unprecedented as regards the sharp edge of criticism in the speeches of its delegates. The proposals aired at the congress will help specify a draft concept of the economic and social development of consumer cooperative societies for the period ending in 2005, which is being elaborated now. It launches the objective to double retail trade turnover.

The congress ends its work on Wednesday.

ICA President Gives Address

LD2003224489 Moscow TASS in English 1904 GMT 20 Mar 89

[Text] Moscow March 20 TASS—"It is not only profit that underlies our activity. It is based on the principles of solidarity, responsibility to society, democracy. If these qualities are not manifest, I don't think that we have the right to use the word cooperative", Lars Marcus, president of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA), said evaluating the significance of his movement. He addressed the 12th Congress of Soviet Cooperative Organizations in Moscow.

He said that International Cooperative Alliance has a membership of more than 500 million and this figure is growing. The positions of the cooperative movement in South-East Asia are being strengthened. At hand are signs of a breakthrough in the development of cooperation in Latin America. The majority of problems in this sphere are observed in Africa, he said.

Cooperative societies exist in the changing world and, consequently, should be modified themselves, the ICA president went on. Cooperative organisations want fair and undiscriminating conditions for work, allowing them to compete with other sectors of the economy, rather than privileges. Therefore, the alliance clarifies to governments and members of cooperative societies themselves that the meaning of their activity is to service their members, and accomplish economic tasks through genuine democracy. "Cooperative organisations lend to this activity such features which no other form of economic life can offer. It stands to reason that reactionary governments are apprehensive of any forms of democracy, including cooperative".

Marcus declared for all-round support for inter-cooperative trade. It is of particular importance to cooperative organisations of the Third World which is subjected to exploitation, he stressed.

Marcus noted ICA members' keen interest in Soviet perestroyka. "At the ICA congress last July we received Mikhail Gorbachev's message. It was warmly received at the congress opening ceremony and became the source of inspiration during our debates. Simultaneously, it engendered enhanced interest in the role cooperative societies members have to play in the USSR, and in economic transformations in the Soviet Union".

Chairman, Deputies Elected

LD2203162289 Moscow TASS in English 1549 GMT 22 Mar 89

[Text] Moscow March 22 TASS—The 12th congress of Soviet consumers' cooperatives, which ended at the great Kremlin palace here today, mapped out the principal directions of their participation in the socio-economic transformation of the Soviet countryside. The congress delegates, representing 3.5 million workers of the rural trading, public catering and servicing network, as well as 60 million share-holders of consumers' societies, have spent three days discussing vitally important problems related to this sector of economy.

The perestroyka, now on the upswing in the country, has livened up the activities of this socio-economic organization, servicing 40 percent of the country's population. The number of consumers' societies has grown by 2.5 thousand in the past two years. More than eight thousand new production cooperatives have become collective members of these societies. Rent forms of management are gaining ground.

The congress deliberations were sharp and critical. The delegates castigated organizations that failed to provide adequate assistance in the liquidation of shortcomings in rural trade and public services. The congress demanded broader public self-government, progressive forms of management on the basis of cooperative property. Ways to increase output and sales of food and manufactured goods, now in short supply, have been indicated. Measures were mapped out to promote the Soviet cooperators' international relations. They now trade with cooperative organizations in forty countries of the world.

The delegates elected the council of the Central Union of Consumers' Societies of the USSR. Pavel Fedirko, 57, was elected chairman of the Centrosoyuz board.

The congress approved the rules of consumers' cooperative organizsations and of the central union, laying down their rights and duties in keeping with the recently adopted law "on cooperation in the USSR", legalizing the new tendencies that have emerged in the course of the on-going radical economic reform.

The congress, being as it is the highest organ of consumers' cooperatives, has discharged a hitherto unprecedented function: It elected 40 people's deputies of the USSR. It is common knowledge that under the new elections law a third of the country's supreme legislature is now elected directly by public organizations in accordance with fixed quotas.

Vlasov, Baklanov Attend Trade Workers Day Meeting

PM2003084389 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Mar 89 Second Edition p 2

[TASS report: "Workday Concerns on the Holiday"]

[Text] Last year was distinguished by a stepping up of the struggle against shortcomings in the services sphere. Economic accountability, lease contracts, and other progressive forms of work organization are gathering strength.

This was said by participants in a festive meeting to mark the day of trade, consumer services, and housing and communal services workers. It was held in Moscow 17 March. This was the first time that working people from these sectors jointly celebrated their professional holiday.

The presidium included A.V. Vlasov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers; O.D. Baklanov, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; leaders of a number of ministries and departments; scientists; production frontrankers; and representatives of the capital's public.

Working people from the services sectors who spoke at the meeting gave assurances that they would apply all their energy, knowledge, and experience to accomplish the tasks assigned to them.

Regional Easter Services, Celebrations Noted

LD2603140589 Moscow TASS in English 1345 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] Moscow March 26 TASS—By TASS correspondents:

The bells of Catholic Churches sounded in the towns and villages of Lithuania on Sunday, inviting believers to Easter services. A holiday message from the bishops of Lithuania was delivered in churches during the celebration masses.

For the first time in many years, Easter masses were held at the Vilnius Archcathedral as well as in the Church of St. Mary, the Queen of the World, in the port city of Klaipeda.

Festive holiday tables awaited believers at home after Easter services, with the traditional 'margutis'—coloured and decorated easter eggs.

The holiday has also been celebrated in 26 Lutheran and five reformed congregations.

Fluffy pussy-willow branches decorated the homes of many residents of Soviet Estonia on Sunday, where the traditional Easter holiday is marked in accordance with the Lutheran Church.

On Saturday housewives prepared special dishes for the feast, including a special cream which is served only once a year.

Pastor Peeter Karma of St. Jan Church in Tallinn congratulated the congregation on the Easter holiday and wished all people on earth happiness and peace.

After an interval of 30 years, the words "Christ has risen!" were again voiced in the Riga Domkirk Cathedral by Janis Lijepins, dean of the evangelical-Lutheran parish.

In 1959 the Latvian Lutheran Church abandoned the right to possess the Domkirk Cathedral because it could not afford the cost of upkeep and maintenance. The state assumed responsibility for the care of the historical building. Recently, by a decision of the Estonian Government, the status of a functioning church was restored to the cathedral.

Holiday masses were also held in the Catholic churches of Latvia. An Easter message circulated by the diocese of the Catholic Church in Latvia calls on all believers and other citizens of the republic to display unity and brotherly love.

The main Easter service was held in Riga in the St. Jacob Cathedral, with Cardinal Julijans Vaivods presiding.

Believers of the Roman Catholic Church came to the Lvov Cathedral of Assumption and Ascension of Virgin Mary, in the Western Ukraine, on Sunday with baskets full of special Easter dishes. Catholic priests Wladislaw Kernicki and Ludwig Kamelewski blessed the holiday preparations.

Addressing the parishoners, Catholic priest Wladislaw Kernicki, pastor of the cathedral, relayed the good news that many Catholics in remote villages of the Lvov region celebrated Easter Sunday in Catholic Churches handed over to them by local authorities.

"We regard this process as one of the results of perestroyka and the new thinking in our country," the priest said.

"Therefore we pray to the Lord to send us new successes along the chosen path. This serves the truth, wellbeing and peace on earth".

* Environmental Commitee Examines Funding

18300449a Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 12 Mar 89 p 4

[Unattributed article: "Protection of Nature: Selection of Goals"]

[Text] The draft of the long-term state program for environmental protection and efficient utilization of the natural resources of the USSR for the 13th Five-Year Plan and the future up to the year 2005 was considered at a meeting of the USSR Goskompriroda [State Committee for Environmental Protection]. It was held on 10 March in Moscow.

The draft of the program, which was submitted by the chairman of the USSR Goskompriroda F.T. Morgun, is directed toward a radical improvement of the utilization of nature in the country and restructuring of the activity of the ministries and departments in this area on the basis of new economic methods of management, extensive introduction of scientific and technical achievements, and activization of the influence of legislation for the protection of nature.

The result of the implementation of the program should be the gradual achievement of the normative quality of the environment and scientifically substantiated indicators of the completeness of the utilization of natural resources. But, in the opinion of Academician I.V. Petryanov-Sokolov, who spoke in the discussions, the program does not devote enough attention to this last aspect.

At the meeting attention was devoted to the inadequate financing of measures for the protection of nature. In the USSR only 10 billion rubles a year are allotted for this while the United States allots 80 billion dollars.

Investments in ecology research amount to 50 million rubles while more than 1.5 billion are required, emphasized the vice president of the USSR Academy of Sciences N.P. Laverov. Among the negative factors he also named the ecological illiteracy of many management workers. This idea was supported also by the chairman of the USSR State Committee for Public Education G.A. Yagodin. He spoke of the need to raise the overall level of environmental protection knowledge and the overall cultural level.

The statements that have been mentioned do not reflect the entire spectrum of judgments concerning the draft but they do give an idea of its most disputed aspects. It has been suggested that after it is improved, taking into account all the remarks from participants in the meeting, the draft of the program be brought up for nationwide discussion.

The first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers V.S. Murakhovskiy participated in the meeting.

Economic

Deputy Finance Minister Discusses Budget Deficit

LD2703085589 Moscow TASS in English 0821 GMT 27 Mar 89

[Text] Moscow March 27 TASS—By TASS correspondent Valeriy Kiosa:

"Stabilization of the country's financial situation—this is the key purpose of the Soviet Government's urgent measures to streamline the national economy. If carried out, they will do away with several adverse factors, negatively influencing the development of [the] Soviet economy, or reduce their impact to the minimum already within the next two years", our correspondent was told by Vyacheslav Senchagov, deputy finance minister of the USSR.

He noted that the country's financial situation had probably become more complicated today than last year. This is borne at [phrase as received] by the distabilised commodity market and growing inflation. The principal cause of these complications, i.e. unbalanced state revenues and spendings, has not been overcome yet.

"The 1989 state budget was approved with a deficit of 35 billion roubles. Another 63.4 billion were borrowed from the funds of the state bank of the USSR, thereby increasing the disbalance to almost 100 billion roubles. It ought to be acknowledged, unfortunately, that the budget deficit is not decreasing, but, on the contrary, growing".

What is the way, as seen in the USSR, of solving these grave problems, on which the success of the radical economic reform depends in large measure? "First of all, plans are afoot to boost sharply the output of goods and provide more services to the population, to even out demand and supply", Vyacheslav Senchagov replied. "The output of consumer goods will be increased for this purpose at double the rates fixed for the production of machinery, equipment and other means of production. This is a genuine revolution in planning ideology".

"The country's unsatisfied demand already exceeds 70 billion roubles, but expansion of production is bound to take some time too. Hence the conclusion: The situation can be rectified quickly only by radically reducing budget spendings", Senchagov noted. "The question is to reconsider, first and foremost, the building programme, since this is where the major leakage of funds occurs. Thus, the volume of uncompleted construction amounted to more than 150 billion roubles in 1988. This is why the number of building projects, which are so expensive for the state, will be reduced. Equally tough measures, up to and including shut-downs, will be directed against unprofitable enterprises, operating only due to state subsidies. Considerable funds will be obtained from the reduction of defence spendings".

"Attention will have to be concentrated also on one other new problem, which has appeared [words indistinct] the economic reform: excess of earnings over labour productivity. In other words, we are now paying money for what has actually not been earned, money that is not backed by sufficient commodity supply. Hence, it is necessary not only to boost supply," but also to take measures aimed at stopping such money appearing in the market".

"All these concrete decisions mark the beginning of a huge effort to rectify the financial situation in the country", Vyacheslav Senchakov noted.

Foreign Relations Bank Opens Branch in Hungary

LD2503120889 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0540 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] Budapest, 25 Mar (TASS)—The first office in a socialist country of the USSR Vneshekonombank [Bank for Foreign Economic Relations] has opened in Budapest. Among its tasks will be to provide for the organization and keeping of accounts on export-import and non-trade operations and to provide credits for associations, enterprises, and organizations involved in foreign economic links. The work of the office is designed to promote the creation of joint enterprises and the development of direct co-production ties.

New Commercial Corporation Set Up in Latvia

LD2703100189 Moscow TASS in English 0924 GMT 27 Mar 89

[Text] Riga March 27 TASS—One of the principal purposes of a commercial corporation of state-run and cooperative enterprises, set up in Latvia, is to provide legal and social protection for the cooperative movement in this Baltic republic.

The corporation's President Jakob Kollontai told TASS that the corporation set up a bank on a share basis which is called upon to become a reliable partner of the founder and clients. Its insurance fund will enable enterprises running into critical situation to avoid bankruptcies and to cover unforseen losses and non-planned expenses.

The combination of two types of ownership—state and cooperative—opens up wide opportunities for refining economic and financial activities and for studying the market situation.

The corporation attaches special importance to investments. The corporation's research coordinating centre is looking for lucrative capital investment spheres.

Preparations for an auction of houses has already been started on the initiative of this centre. Industrial enterprises whose personnel are in need of housing are invited to participate in the auction. Houses to be built by the corporation at the appointed time will be auctioned. Provision is made for the founding of several specialized banks, a cooperative securities exchange, and for 'auctions of ideas' to expedite the turnover of funds and to raise the efficiency of their utilisation. The corporation also intends to develop foreign economic relations. The first contacts have already been established with the firms of West Berlin and the United States.

Agricultural

Agricultural Developments for 19-25 Mar

LD2603012989

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on agricultural developments in the USSR carried by Moscow Domestic Service in Russian on 19-25 March, unless indicated otherwise. Times of broadcast, given in GMT, are in parenthesis at the end of each item.

19-20 March

No fileworthy items monitored.

21 March

Every day we receive more and more reports in the mail on work in the fields. The farmers of Kazakhstan are sowing early spring crops. The machine operators of the republic's southern oblasts have sown 50,000 hectares of arable land with perennial grasses and barley. Farmers in the northern regions are preparing to go out into the fields. Here, a large number of farms already have completed the repair of tractors, cultivating and sowing machines, and implements. (2050)

22 March

Spring field work is under way in Kirghizia. In Osh Oblast, only first-class seeds of high yield varieties of grain and cereals are being planted. Moisture conservation is under way. Harrowing is in process where winter grain and perennial grasses have been sown. This year, spring crops are to be sown on more than 600,000 hectares of arable land. (1430)

23 March

Farmers are not being allowed to get sowing work in full swing due to rain and chilly weather. Cotton growers are ready to go to the fields to sow more than 300,000 hectares. This year the cotton acreage has diminished appreciably in many rayons with liberated land being given to lessees, who are sowing vegetable and feed crops. More than 40,000 hectares of grain-growing land in the Dangara valley are receiving fertilizer. (1430)

24 March

This year farms in two major border rayons of the eastern Trans-Baykal have transferred to mutually advantageous exchanges with their neighbors in China. Shepherds at the "Krasnyy Velikan" state farm situated in the frontier area of the Trans-baykal have received 10 minitractors of Chinese production in return for pedigree sheep. Direct business cooperation between the rural neighbors is built upon a noncurrency basis. Today, the foreign partners are building a complex of buildings for a trading center at the state farm, which the people of the area will pay for with a flock of high-productivity livestock. (0000)

25 March

In the Crimea the sowing of annual grass is coming to an end. The land alloted to it this year has been increased by a factor of three. The agricultural workers of the southern regions of Turkmenistan have started the mass sowing of corn for grain. (1100)

Scientific

Eight 'Cosmos' Satellites Launched 24 Mar

LD2503073789 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0720 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] Moscow, 25 Mar (TASS)—Artificial earth satellites "Cosmos-2008," "Cosmos-2009," "Cosmos-2010," "Cosmos-2011," "Cosmos-2012," "Cosmos-2013," "Cosmos-2014," and "Cosmos-2015" were launched in the Soviet

Union on Friday [24 March] by the rocket launcher "Cosmos." All eight satellites were put into orbit by a single rocket launcher.

The satellites carry scientific apparatus for continuing space research.

Movement of all eight satellites is proceding on orbits close to those calculated and with the following initial parameters:

period of revolution: 115 degrees 2 minutes;
apogee: 1,510 km;
perigee: 1,445 km;
orbital inclination: 74 degrees.

Besides scientific apparatus, the satellites carry radio systems for the precise measurement of orbital elements and radio telemetry systems for transmitting to earth data about the work of the instruments and scientific apparatus.

The apparatus aboard the satellites is working normally.

The coordinating and computing center is processing the incoming information.

Progress of 'Phobos' Spacecraft Reported

LD2503173589 Moscow TASS in English 1717 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] Moscow March 25 TASS—TASS special correspondent reports from the flight control centre:

The Phobos space station continues its mission around Mars. During the travel along the first synchronous orbit on March 22 and 23, the spacecraft continued investigating processes on the sun and in the near-planet space, registered magnetic fields and splashes of gamma-radiation of various origin.

A session of natural Phobos's TV filming was held on Saturday between 12:20 and 13:40, Moscow time [between 0920 and 1040 GMT], when the spacecraft was at a distance of between 279 and 191 kilometres from the Martian satellite. The snapshots give a chance to specify a relative position of the craft and Phobos and to get additional information to pinpoint a place for landing independent probes on the satellite. Under the flight programme, it is planned to photograph Mars again in infrared rays on March 26.

Now the flight control centre and the space research institute of the USSR Academy of Sciences are processing information transmitted by the Phobos station and analysing data of ballistic measurements to prepare for a switchover to the second synchronous orbit.

U.S. Success With Cold Nuclear Fusion Noted

LD2403205989 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 24 Mar 89

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Now that mankind is carrying out a scientific and technical revolution it's difficult to surprise anyone with anything. However, the achievement by U.S. scientists of nuclear fusion at room temperature is just as sensational for us as was the invention of, for instance, the wheel or the development of the internal combustion engine for our ancestors. Heat has been generated in a test-tube of heavy water containing platinum and palladium electrodes, and what's more, this continued for a long period. The process was accompanied by the emission of neutrons and [word indistinct], typical byproducts of nuclear fusion. The scientists have been working on this for almost 5 years, but they themselves hardly believed they would succeed, given that the work was based on a totally unlikely guess. They even paid for the experiment out of their own pockets. The reason I mention this is not so that the USSR Finance Ministry cuts expenditure on fundamental research by our scientists, particularly since the U.S. Energy Department has already announced that it will finance the new research work. [video shows press conference by U.S. scientists; diagram of the process]

* Study, Control of Ecological Problems Urged

18300450b Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 11 Mar 89 Second Edition p 3

[Article by Academician V. Koptyug, chairman of the USSR Academy of Sciences Siberian Department, USSR people's deputy candidate: "An Algorithm for a Clean Sky"; first paragraph is an introduction]

[Text] *The growing scale of pollution and environmental degradation are evoking justified concern in society. The USSR Academy of Sciences therefore recently convened a general meeting to discuss how under present conditions, which can without exaggeration be said to be critical, to create a reliable scientific foundation on which to build a system of rational interrelationships between nature and man.*

The need to intensify research on global problems of the biosphere is not in dispute. But today the main obstacle preventing efforts to deal with the critical ecological situation is still not lack of knowledge but organizational dereliction in handling nature conservation.

It is obvious that the USSR State Committee for Environmental Protection set up a year ago is primarily responsible in this direction. It is also equally obvious that without the active involvement of all scientific forces in the country now, when it is essential to shape a systems approach to the issue of nature conservation, it will not be able to cope with its task.

What is it that has made me present the issue on this kind of plane?

In recent years the USSR Academy of Sciences Siberian Department has significantly expanded and continues to build up the volume of basic and applied research in the ecological field. The institutes of the department are studying the condition of natural resources and ecosystems in Siberia and changes in them under the influence of human activity, and they are providing active assistance in shaping a program of nature conservation in the Lake Baykal basin, in the zone of the Norilsk mining and metallurgical combine, the Kansko-Achinsk fuel and energy complex, and other major industrial centers. During the course of this work we have become firmly convinced that all of us, and the academy in general, may soon be simply drowning in finding solutions to the growing mass of very acute and specific problems. In our view, the way out of this over the next few years is to direct part of our scientific forces toward the most active participation in the building of a clear-cut national system of nature conservation activity. Work to create such a system is being done but from our viewpoint it is too listless.

Meanwhile issues requiring priority and immediate solutions are building up. And the very first of them is clarification of the actual situation. We shall not make gains in nature conservation until we have adequate information on the chemical composition and volume of emissions from each enterprise, and we shall not be able to single out the most dangerous of them without comparing individual (calculated per unit of output) emissions from each enterprise to the best indicators achieved both in the country and throughout the world. Without this it is impossible to outline any specific plan of action, assess the resources and time needed, or shape an effective program to improve the ecological situation.

Today such programs are drawn up mainly as the simple sum of proposals advanced by enterprises and ministries. For example, proposals to construct treatment plants and the corresponding capital investments needed for that. Is this sensible, is it optimal for the territory to spend those assets (and let me emphasize that we are talking about considerable sums)? Yes, and is it possible to evaluate the effectiveness of any particular measure if as a rule in present programs no indication is even given of the absolute of specific change in emissions, that is, the final result is unknown? There is but one indicator: How much has been spent? The classic model of the gross value, cost approach typical of the national economy in general.

Because they do not have complete and systematized information on the true situation the local soviets are unable to set up effective nature conservation programs and monitor compliance with them. Without this information the law enforcement agencies cannot seriously consider cases of damage done to nature. And society at large needs this information.

The USSR Academy of Sciences Siberian Department considers it essential to introduce ecological certification for enterprises on a priority basis, consisting of, in addition to absolute and specific characteristics already mentioned, a review of the world literature on advanced technologies and the best methods to trap and utilize waste in any particular sector. Sharing this viewpoint, the Irkutsk and Kemerovo Oblast soviets of people's deputies, and also the Buryat ASSR [Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic] Council of Ministers have already adopted decisions making ecological certification of enterprises mandatory. In Siberia they have "come to grips with the issue." But on a countrywide scale this is still just one drop in the bucket.

Moreover we must take into account the fact that the enterprises themselves and the ministries in charge of them will oppose this kind of certification. We must not only break down this resistance but also oblige them to do this work themselves. And it is thus important to establish serious responsibility for withholding or distorting information. I suggest that the USSR Academy of Sciences jointly with the appropriate departments should in short order devise these kind of legislative enactments and submit them for approval by the government.

A second, and no less important issue is how to organize continuous monitoring of conditions in the environment. Here it is essential first and foremost to define and establish a delineation of functions and responsibilities. The services of the USSR State Committee for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Control (unless its staff is expanded to infinity) will never be able to fully monitor the emissions from tens of thousands of enterprises. In my opinion it would be expedient for it to concentrate on monitoring the overall situation and systematically observe the most dangerous kinds of emissions and selectively check enterprises. With regard to continuous monitoring of all parameters, under the Law on the State Enterprise, the enterprises themselves are obliged to do this and submit the appropriate documentation.

And if the state control services find that what is recorded in the documents of a plant or combine is at variance with the true situation then extremely strict fines should be imposed. This will make it possible, in particular, to cut short the criminal practice of "salvo emissions," which is still used quite extensively by producers.

But what technical means can be used for the monitoring? One important part of this should be the development (through the efforts of the USSR Academy of Sciences and the various sectors) of nature conservation instrument building. Today we lack many essential instruments. In the draft state ecological program there is no clarity on this point. True, it does contain one "puzzling" section: One ministry must produce remote spectral analyzers for pollutants in the atmosphere, while another is to produce gas analyzers and instruments for measuring chemical requirements for oxygen, and so forth. But there is not a word about conducting an analysis with a particular set of instruments, or about drawing up the technical requirements for that analysis, or determining the scales of the requirements.

A third strategic issue is the creation of an economic mechanism that would make it unprofitable to waste or spoil natural resources. The main elements of such a mechanism formulated in the well-known CPSU Central Committee, USSR Council of Ministers, USSR Gosplan [State Planning Committee], USSR State Committee of Prices, and USSR Ministry of Finance decree were to have been worked out within a 6-month period with the participation of the USSR Academy of Sciences and a procedure confirmed for normative payments for natural resources and for the emission of pollutants, and also the sizes of fines for exceeding permissible emissions. More than a year has passed, but what has been done?

Another main direction is a cardinal rise in the level of technologies. We know that prototypes of ecologically clean technologies are often born during the course of basic research. Naturally, scientists should be trying to bring them into production as soon as possible. This was the way in which less harmful technology for the struggle against agricultural pests based on regulated dispersion generators (making it possible to reduce the amounts of toxic chemicals used by several orders of magnitude), a technology for surveying for underground water reserves without drilling, nonsteady-state catalytic processes for rendering harmless gas emissions from enterprises, and much else emerged from behind the walls of the USSR Academy of Sciences Siberian Department institute.

However, concerning the important issue of ecology awareness in production we cannot pin our hopes on the majesty of the case. We must provide purposeful incentive to devise new, ecologically clean technologies. The USSR Ministry of Power and Electrification has offered an example here by establishing the main requirements (ecological and economic) for thermal power stations of the future. The USSR State Committee for Science and Technology has announced a competition for designs for basically new schemes for those power stations, and our Siberian institutes have been actively involved in this. Here they have made use of their own leading developments in heat-exchange equipment of a new type, the use of burner jets to burn fuel, catalytic and radiation-chemical methods for cleaning flue gases and so forth. I think that such competitions should be not the exception but the rule.

Methodology for ecological-economic expert evaluation of major national economic projects remains the "Achilles' heel." The Siberian department felt this itself when it fought against the diversion of part of the flow of Siberian rivers to the south, and against the apatite plant in the Transbaykal, and when it conducted an expert evaluation of the Katunskaya GES [hydroelectric power station] and when it turned down the brief for the Turukhanskaya GES.

It must be admitted that we have still not learned to evaluate the permissible anthropogenic influence on natural complexes, determine the economic harm resulting from activity in the environment, or take into account the ecological factors when devising regional schemes for the development of production forces. The draft state program and the main provisions of the national academy program provide for research along all these avenues. And here we have no right to delay: Appropriate recommendations are vitally necessary, were necessary yesterday! It seems that it is essential to create ad hoc collectives without delay, with set (and quite rigid) work periods.

I may be reproached for the fact that instead of considering global problems of biospheric research I have concentrated on organizational issues in which, perhaps, the USSR Academy of Sciences should not play "first violin." However, in recent years the number of assignments and appeals to the Siberian department (and, I think, to the USSR Academy of Sciences) have been growing like an avalanche: "Help us to solve our ecological problem!" "Conduct an expert ecological assessment!" And if in the near future we do not manage to shift this work into a definite systematic channel then we shall choke from a surfeit of tasks and requests and will hardly be in a position to engage effectively the fundamental problems of the ecology.

Of course, consistent reductions in the harm being done to nature require enormous efforts, considerable funds, and a long time: A problem of this scale cannot be solved at a stroke. It is important that all nature conservation actions rest on a full knowledge of the state of affairs and in-depth analysis of it. Understanding the aims and clearly establishing the priority tasks and optimal distribution of resources—only this kind of system approach will make it possible, to use a metaphor, to derive an algorithm for a clean sky.